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Japan

Tokyo Agrees To Lift Machine Tool Controls

OW2412062193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0603 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan said Friday it will lift voluntary controls on exports of machine tools to the United States and Europe at the end of 1993 in line with the Uruguay Round trade accord under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Japan has imposed quantitative controls on shipments to the U.S. and regulated minimum prices for exports to Europe. The announcement, made by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, said voluntary export controls to the U.S. have become unnecessary because of production shifts overseas by Japanese makers.

The ministry also said the GATT trade accord, reached earlier this month, called for abolition of voluntary export controls in principle.

Japan first imposed quantitative controls on exports to the U.S. in January 1987 and set minimum prices for shipments to Europe in January 1981.

Concern Over Possible U.S. Trade Retaliation

OW2812100193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0942 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—A top Japanese trade official expressed serious concern Tuesday [28 December] over calls among some U.S. Government officials for retaliatory action against Japan over a drop in the foreign share of Japan's semiconductor market. The share dropped below 20 percent in the third quarter of 1993, according to both U.S. and Japanese Government reports released earlier Tuesday.

The United States is accusing Japan of failing to meet its "commitment" in a 1991 bilateral treaty to a steady improvement in foreign semiconductor market share in Japan. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry official said possible U.S. retaliatory action against Japan under the U.S. trade law could jeopardize the ongoing bilateral framework trade talks.

Kantor Plan for Emergency Chip Talks Accepted

OW2812063093 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0309 GMT 28 Dec 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] The United States has asked to hold emergency Japan-U.S. talks next month following a drop in the share of foreign-made semiconductors in the Japanese market. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] made clear today in its response that it would go along with the U.S. request.

According to MITI, the share of foreign-made semiconductors in the Japanese market during the third quarter, from July to September this year, fell 1.1 percent compared to the same quarter a year earlier. According to the U.S. formula this leaves foreign-made semiconductors with an 18.1 percent market share, the third consecutive quarter with a worse than 20 percent showing.

Commenting on the decline in the share of foreign-made semiconductors in the Japanese market on 27 December, U.S. Trade Representative Kantor said: "We have no choice but to have grave concern about Japan's handling of the share and have asked to hold bilateral emergency talks next month. In 1991, both Japan and the United States concluded a semiconductor agreement that allows either of the two countries to call emergency talks if the aim of the agreement is not being fulfilled sufficiently, and it is under those terms that Mr. Kantor called the emergency meeting.

MITI intends to point out at the emergency talks that sales by volume of foreign-made semiconductors in the Japanese market have been steadily growing. As the United States already said it would ask Japan to work out a joint action program to drastically increase the share of foreign-made semiconductors in the Japanese market, however, the Japanese side will face even stronger pressure from the United States at the emergency talks.

Firms Oppose Microchip Market Share Formula

OW2812085893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Japanese electronics firms Tuesday [28 December] expressed discontent with U.S. ways of taking an issue with changes in quarterly foreign share of Japan's semiconductor market. A government report released Tuesday said the foreign share of Japan's semiconductor market dropped below 20 percent in the July-September period of this year.

The Japanese electronics industry held U.S. microchip makers responsible for the drop since they were preoccupied with domestic shipments to meet the personal computer boom in the United States, industry sources said. The Japanese industry was upset by a U.S. threat to take sanctions against it over the share decline, they said.

Major Japanese computer makers predicted that the Japanese semiconductor market will continue to grow in view of increasing demand for memory microchips, making it difficult for Japanese manufacturers to achieve the 20 percent target.

Hata Discusses High-Tech Flow to DPRK

OW2812075893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0748 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata pledged Tuesday (928 December] to monitor the reported outflow of Japanese high technology and an estimated 200 billion yen annually in remittances from Korean residents in Japan to North Korea. "I am determined to watch these reported outflows," Hata told a luncheon meeting at the Japan National Press Club.

Hata said he is concerned about statements by a North Korean defector that the pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) has systematically shipped high-technology products to North Korea.

Lim Song son, a first lieutenant in the North Korean People's Army, defected to South Korea in August. He told a Japanese think tank in November that Chongryun has circumvented Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Control (Cocom) regulations by clandestinely shipping military-related communications equipment, computer microchips and other high-tech products to Pyongyang.

Hata said he has been informed by government officials that the cabinet information research office estimated the annual outflow of money from Japan to North Korea at 200 billion yen. The estimate apparently includes Chongryun's banking remittances to the North Korean Government, cash gifts from Korean residents in Japan to their relatives in North Korea and the value of various manufacturing plant-related investment, according to Katsumi Sato, director of the Modern Korean Institute.

Hata said, however, that the government faces difficulties in obtaining accurate data about the remittances and in confirming the alleged Cocom violations by Chongryun. He ruled out applying an immediate economic sanctions to halt the alleged shipments.

Japan will not take the initiative of imposing economic sanctions on North Korea before the UN Security Council adopts a resolution calling for sanctions, he said. North Korea could "erupt violently" if Japan put pressure on Pyongyang, he said.

Hata stressed that Japan and Asian countries need the presence of U.S. troops on Japanese soil as there are still "some countries armed with nuclear weapons" in this area of the world. "We would face trouble if a vacuum was created in Asia following the withdrawal of U.S. Troops," he said.

"My ideas are not very different from those of Liberal Democratic Party President Yohei Kono," who recently voiced concern about a possible negative security impact following the withdrawal of U.S. Forces from the Philippines.

Butrus-Ghali Discusses ROK, DPRK Talks

OW2812100093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali told a Japanese official Tuesday [28 December] that he has gained the impression in talks with North and South Korean leaders that both Koreas want to solve through dialogue a months-long dispute over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons development program.

Butrus-Ghali made the remarks in a meeting with Shunji Yanai, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Foreign Policy Bureau, during a stopover in Tokyo before leaving for New York later in the day, Japanese officials said.

Butrus-Ghali was returning to the UN headquarters after completing a 10-day visit to Japan, South and North Korea, and China to discuss the nuclear crisis.

The UN chief denied press reports that North Korean President Kim Il-song has turned down his offer to mediate between Pyongyang and Washington, the officials said. The reports differ totally from the truth, he was quoted as saying.

His trip ends amid reports that North Korea is ready to accept inspections of seven nuclear sites, which could pave the way for a diplomatic resolution to the prolonged crisis.

Algeria's Decision To Join NPT Welcomed

OW2412110493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan on Friday [24 December] welcomed Algeria's decision to join the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Terusuke Terada said Algerian Ambassador to Japan Salim Tahar Debagha notified the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday that Algeria intends to join the NPT, which is designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Debagha was quoted as saying Algeria has been building a nuclear reactor for experimental use with the cooperation of China. The reactor opened Tuesday, he said.

The Japanese Government welcomes the decision and expects Algeria to become a member of the NPT as soon as possible, Terada said.

Sending of Monitors To El Salvador Studied

OW2512064693 Tokyo NHK Radio Network in Japanese 2200 GMT 24 Dec 93

[From "NHK Radio News Report"]

[Text] The government is firming up its policy on dispatching a mission to monitor general elections in El Salvador in March, in applying the UN Peacekeeping Operations [PKO] Cooperation Law.

The general election has become possible as a result of the end of a civil war there. In El Salvador, until January of last year, the government and the left-wing extremist guerrilla group were engaged in fierce battles in what was called a proxy war between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Peace was realized between them under UN mediation in January of last year, and a presidential election and a parliamentary election are set to be held there in March of next year under UN supervision. About 900 additional election monitors from UN member nations are expected to come to the country to carry out supervisory functions.

When Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani visited Japan last month, he asked Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to send election observers to his country, and the Japanese Government promised to study the matter.

As a result of a study done by the offices concerned, primarily the Foreign Ministry, the government has concluded that sending personnel to El Salvador meets the three conditions of the PKO Cooperation Law, including one on the existence of an agreement on peace, and it wants to make a final decision.

The government is now checking to see whether it can enlist enough Spanish-speaking local government officials for the mission, and it is studying the possibility of providing about $200,000 in aid to procure radio equipment to relay election results.

If sending personnel to El Salvador becomes a reality, that will become Japan's fourth such dispatch of personnel overseas under the PKO Cooperation Law—following the missions to Angola, Cambodia, and Mozambique.

DA Eyes Peacekeeping as 'Major Duty' of SDF

OW2712103993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—The Defense Agency [DA] plans to draft an amendment to the Self-Defence Forces (SDF) law to define participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions as "a major duty" of the forces, a senior agency official said Monday [27 December]. The amendment will be to Article 3 of the SDF law, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Article 3, the most important provision in the 120-article law, defines the major duties of the SDF. It says, "the Self-Defense Forces' chief duty is to defend our country from both direct and indirect attacks to ensure our country's peace and independence, thereby maintaining its security."

At present, the law's Article 100—which defines the SDF's peripheral duties—authorizes the defense agency director general to order an overseas deployment of SDF troops as UN peacekeepers.

The agency plans to set up an advisory panel of experts to the agency's chief Kazuo Aichi early next year and entrust the panel with considering the details of the amendment, the official said.

Former Defense Agency chief Keisuke Nakanishi appealed for upgrading the military's peacekeeping capabilities as a major duty of the SDF. Nakanishi was forced to resign in early December following his statements calling for changing Japan's war-renouncing Constitution to allow more frequent involvement of the military in UN operations.

The amendment will make clear that the obligation to repel foreign attacks on the country should take precedence over the duty to participate in UN peacekeeping, the anonymous official said.

The amendment is expected to become law in 1995, when the government is obliged to review the UN peacekeeping cooperation law. Japan sent SDF engineers to Cambodia under the law, enacted in 1992, that enabled Japan to send ground troops overseas for the first time since the end of World War II.

Power Increase for Market Ombudsman Proposed

OW2412084393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0813 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—A governmental meeting Friday [24 December] proposed that a market-opening ombudsman in charge of handling complaints from foreign companies be overhauled, government officials said. The meeting submitted the proposal to Nobuo Ishihara, deputy chief cabinet secretary and head of the Office of Trade and Investment Ombudsman (OTO).

The proposal said the OTO should be comprised of higher-ranking members than at present. It suggested, for instance, that the prime minister be appointed as head of the OTO, a position now held by deputy chief cabinet secretary. The OTO should include cabinet members, it said.

In addition, the OTO would be given authority to propose various measures on its own initiative. Currently, the OTO takes action only when requested to do so.

The proposal also urged that the number of OTO members be increased and that the research division of the OTO attached to the Economic Planning Agency be further strengthened.

The government is expected to adopt the proposal in a key cabinet meeting in January.

Many foreign companies in Japan have complained that the government's policies on deregulation and market-opening are insufficient and that the OTO does not function effectively.

The OTO is a governmental body which deals with complaints from foreign companies and groups concerning various import procedures and the governmental regulations.

Ex-Im Bank Improves Imports Credit Facility

OW2412093393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—The Export-Import [Ex-Im] Bank of Japan on Friday [24 December] announced a package of additional measures to improve the import credit facility so as to encourage Japanese imports of manufactured products.

The government-financed institution said that under the new package, prefabricated housing materials have been added to a list of items eligible for low-interest loans. The list, prepared in line with the government's pump-priming package implemented last September, also includes machinery, pharmaceutical products, paper, paper products, sheet glass, furniture and sporting goods.

The loans carry an annual interest rate of 3.51 percent, the bank said. Under the bank's new package, the period during which the special promotional interest rate is applied to imports of the listed items has been extended until the end of fiscal 1994 from the original deadline set for the end of fiscal 1993, the bank said.

However, the bank said that extension of the preferential loans will be suspended when lending totals 500.9 billion yen. The preferential interest rate is 0.2 percentage point below the government's trust fund rate, it said.

The bank said the import credit-line facility is offered to clients who import manufactured foreign goods continuously or recurrently and are in need of long-term working capital to increase their imports.

Following the enactment of a supplementary budget last week, the government provided an additional 8.5 billion yen to the bank, raising its capital to 985.5 billion yen, the bank said.

Hosokawa Pledges Eradication of Nation's 'Impurities'

OW2812084993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa pledged Tuesday [28 December] to clear away Japan's political, economic and administrative "impurities" to open up new vistas for the nation. "My cabinet is, so to speak, designed to clear inventories of impurities stemming from political, administrative and economic structures, which piled up in the postwar period," he said at a year-end party for reporters covering him.

Hosokawa, 55, said he has tried hard since assuming office in August to wipe away uncertainty blanketing the entire country and bring about a bright future. Looking back at his five months at the helm of government, Hosokawa said, "at the start, I braced for a tremendous amount of hardships ahead but I never anticipated a terrible situation like this."

Hosokawa is the leader of the Japan new party, a component of the seven-party coalition government he heads. As the first non-Liberal Democratic Party premier in 38 years, Hosokawa has been trying to achieve political, economic and administrative reform.

Reform Deliberations Stall in Upper House

OW2812060393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0520 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Deliberations in the House of Councillors on the coalition government's political reform bills stalled Tuesday [28 December] and is likely to resume on January 4. The upper house's special committee on political reform met Tuesday morning to discuss the schedule for debating the political reform package.

The opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) strongly objected to the ruling coalition's call for discussions in the committee to resume on January 4.

The ruling coalition, meanwhile, rejected the LDP's argument that the Diet recess continue through January 7, saying deliberations would start January 4 with or without opposition participation. The coalition began collecting signatures of committee members, since committee rules state that the chairman must open deliberations at a time called for by over one-third of its members.

Shortly after assuming office in August, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa suggested he would resign if he failed to legislate the reform package by the year-end.

But owing to opposition from the LDP and the Japan Communist Party no substantial debate on the package has taken place since the lower house passed it on November 18. The ruling coalition extended the term of the current Diet session, due to end last week, until January 29 in an effort to get the bills onto the statute book.

Takemura Denies Lower House To Be Dissolved

OW2812030193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0248 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura on Tuesday [28 December] denied there would be an early dissolution of the House of Representatives in order to hold a general election, saying it is inadvisable when Japan is in the depths of a recession. Takemura issued the denial at a meeting of Japan New Party (JNP) and Sakigake (Harbinger) parliamentarians at a Tokyo hotel.

He said, "(Japan's) economic slump is at its worst point and we held a general election only half a year ago. It is imprudent for (the goverment) to suggest the dissolution of the lower house."

Takemura said, "we must avoid dissolution of the lower house from the standpoint of public opinion." He reiterated that the government will do its utmost to get a political reform package through the House of Councillors.

The government reform package, featuring changes to the seat allocations in lower house elections and tighter curbs on political funding, cleared the more powerful lower chamber on November 18 and is pending now in the upper house. The deliberations on the bills have proceeded much more slowly than the government had expected because the opposition has demanded that the Diet instead give priority to drafting of the fiscal 1994 budget.

The coalition is seeking an election formula of 274 single-seat electoral districts, and 226 seats decided by proportional representation on a nationwide basis, cutting the seat total to 500 from the current 511.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa amended an initial plan for the 500 seats to be decided equally by the two methods, on a 250-250 basis, as a concession to the LDP.

Former Minister Given 'Donation' From Kajima

OW2612134793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1324 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—Major contractor Kajima Corp. gave donations totaling more than 20 million yen to former Posts Minister Hideo Watanabe during gift-giving seasons in recent years, informed sources said Sunday [26 December] . Other sources said prosecutors have already started investigating relations between Kajima and Watanabe, who lost his House of Representatives seat in the July general election.

Watanabe also reportedly received some 7 million yen in donations from Kajima from 1986 to 1991 in connection with a hotel development project in downtown Tokyo. The informed sources said Kajima gave individual donations of 5 million yen to Watanabe at least four times.

The Political Funds Control Law prohibits a politician from receiving more than 1.5 million yen in donations a year from either individual persons or companies.

Watanabe, who once served as a secretary to former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, won a lower house seat in 1976 from a constituency in Niigata Prefecture, central Japan. Watanabe served as posts and telecommunications minister from 1991 to December last year.

A number of politicians are said to have received donations from Kajima. A former vice president of Kajima was indicted last month on charges of bribery involving former Ibaraki Gov. Fujio Takeuchi.

Reportedly among the politicians are Nakasone, former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, and Ichiro Ozawa, co-leader of Shinseito [Japan Reneewal Party].

Minister Igarashi Scolds Officials Over Scandal

OW2812050193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0451 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi told senior ministry officials on Tuesday [28 December] that the ministry should accept its share of the blame for not preventing a series of bribery and bid-rigging scandals involving general contractors. He made the statement, effectively scolding the officials, on the last working day of the year when state ministries, local governments and most private firms in Japan close down for New Year holidays. Business will return to normal on January 4.

Igarashi said, "we must strongly feel responsibility for the occurrence of the scandals, and we should repent for them."

In November, Igarashi chided senior ministry officials for not providing sufficient guidance to general contractors. The officials rejected his approach at that time, however, saying they had not violated any laws.

Seven leading Japanese construction firms have been involved in the bid-rigging scandals, and about 30 executives of leading firms and heads of prefectural and municipal governments have been charged with giving or accepting bribes.

Toyo Securities Punished Over Illegal Deals

OW2712080093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—The Finance Ministry ordered Toyo Securities Co. Monday [27 December] to suspend operations in stock-index options trading from January 5 to February 1 as a punishment for illegal practices. The decision follows a recommendation from the securities watchdog last week for punitive action against the medium-sized brokerage house for illegal trading and loss-compensation.

The securities and exchange surveillance commission said Toyo securities manipulated transactions in stock-index options by buying and selling on its own account or through a related brokerage to cover part of the losses of a client company in March 1991. Such practices were prohibited under the former securities and exchange law, effective then, but are not subject to indictment under the current revised law.

The transactions created profits of some 50 million yen for the client company, which had lost hundreds of millions of yen because of the stock market slump, the commission said.

SDPJ Leaders Discuss Political Position

OW2412062293 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 19 Dec 93

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network at 0000 GMT on 20 December carries live, its one-hour discussion program "Toron." This episode is entitled "The Social Democratic Party of Japan's [SDPJ] Position Is Called Into Question; Should the SDPJ Remain in the Coalition or Leave It?" The participants include SDPJ Chairman Tomiichi Murayama, SDPJ General Secretary Wataru Kubo, Hokkaido University Professor Jiro Yamaguchi, and Michiko Shimamori, editor of the political journal KOKOKU HIHYO. The program is moderated by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto.

The program first shows a 4-minute video presentation reviewing the SDPJ's role in the coalition government and its policies which are contradictory to the coalition agreement. At 0005 GMT, moderator Yamamoto takes up the issue of the SDPJ's position in the coalition government and asks SDPJ Chairman Murayama what has made him to decide to follow the government decision on partial opening of the rice market. SDPJ Chairman Murayama answers: "The party, from a standpoint of securing food and protecting Japan's agriculture, persistently maintained that the government should fulfill its responsibility to ensure a stable supply of rice. In this sense, we were not supposed to change our position. However, the fact is that this issue has been settled as a diplomatic issue, and even if the party continues to maintain its position, it is impossible to overrule the government's decision. This is one reason. I thought we should maintain our position if our opposition would change the government's decision. But the government's decision remains unchanged. In addition to the rice issue, the government also has to deal with issues such as political reform and immediate economic measures. To meet the people's expectations, the party has decided to make all-out efforts to keep and pursue its basic policy on the rice issue within the cabinet to protect Japan's agriculture and secure food for the people. With this in mind, the party had no choice but to make such a decision." SDPJ General Secretary Kubo explains the significance in taking a leading role in the coalition and says the party has made the decision to maintain the coalition government. But he stresses that the party's position on opposing tariffication without exception, namely the liberalization of the rice market, will remain unchanged. After lengthy discussions on the SDPJ's policies and role in the coalition, SDPJ Chairman Murayama says "as long as we are in the coalition, we have to make efforts to assert the party's policies as much as possible and reflect them in the government's policy," adding "we also have to revive the party by continuing such efforts."

At 0028 GMT, moderator Yamamoto turns to the issue of economic measures. Yamamoto asks SDPJ General Secretary Kubo what he thinks of the fact that the compilation of the budget for fiscal 1994 was postponed to the next year. Kubo says: "It is regrettable. Given the current serious economic situation, I think it is very important to make up the budget swiftly." But he notes: "However, in view of the fact that the cabinet, which has power to decide on the budget compilation, has decided to postpone the budget compilation until next year, our work is how to deal with the situation. I think it is probably necessary to draw up a full-fledged, third supplementary budget for fiscal 1993. The government will have to announce additional economic measures when making up the supplementary budget." Asked about the content of the third supplementary budget, SDPJ Chairman Murayama says: "I think emphasis should be placed on carrying out a drastic income tax cut to boost the economy." Asked how the coalition plans to obtain revenue to make up for the loss caused by an income tax cut, Kubo stresses the need for an overall review of the current tax system, noting the government needs to issue deficit-covering bonds for a certain period if necessary. To counter Hokkaido University Professor Yamaguchi, who says the SDPJ needs to change its stand of opposing a consumption tax, Kubo says it is impossible to agree to raise the consumption tax rate for tax revenue, regarding raising the consumption tax as an unfair tax collection method. In that context, SDPJ Chairman Murayama says "the government has to come up with a tax collection measure that can win over the people."

At 0040 GMT, Yamamoto then singles out the issue of political reform, asking the SDPJ's prospects for the passage of political reform bills in the House of Councillors. Chairman Murayama criticizes the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] for "delaying debates at the Diet session over the political reform bills without reason." He adds: "There are growing opinions that more priority should be given to economic measures than political reform. However, we can deal with the issue of economic measures in parallel with interpellations on the political reform bills." General Secretary Kubo says: "Prime Minister Hosokawa has pledged to pass the political reform bills in the current extraordinary Diet session as the cabinet's responsibility. So, we have to help him carry out political reform. If the government fails to pass the bills in the current Diet session, it is inevitable that it would be called to take responsibility."

Asked by journalist Shimamori about some SDPJ members' possible revolt against the passage of the bills in the upper house, Murayama says he will make utmost efforts to keep the number of seats needed to pass the bills. Yamamoto then asks Kubo if the SDPJ plans to revise the government-proposed bills to make concessions, Kubo answers: "We are not thinking of proposing any revision of the bills." Murayama and Kubo then discuss major differences in view on political reform between the ruling coalition and the LDP. Moderator Yamamoto cites an intra-ruling parties' opinion saying the lower house should be dissolved to appeal to the judgment of the people if the government fails to have the bills passed. Murayama notes "this issue has long been discussed by the previous governments, including the Kaifu and the Miyazawa cabinets. In this sense, if the government fails to pass the bills, it would be forced to make a serious decision," thus noting that the dissolution of the lower house is possible. On the question of regrouping political parties, Murayama says he opposes the idea of creating the two-party system, preferring a multiple party system under the current diversified society. He then indicates a determination to make efforts to revive the party to meet the people's expectations.

The program ends at 0100 GMT.

1993 Extremist Activities 'Indiscriminate'

OW2512113993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 25 KYODO—The Justice Ministry's watchdog body on extremists said Saturday [25 December] that this year's 29 guerrilla acts by ultraleftists were more heinous and indiscriminate than in the past. In an annual report on the domestic and international security situations, the Public Security Investigation Agency said the extremists escalated "indiscriminate" attacks against targets including national cultural treasures and state-designated national assets.

The report also cited guerrilla activities targeting the April visit by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to the southernmost island of Okinawa and the March dispatch of a second Self-Defense forces engineering contingent to Cambodia.

The report said ultrarightists have escalated activities against Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa after he voiced in his August policy speech remorse and apology to Asian people for atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers in World War II.

It said about 2,260 international guerrilla cases were reported, of which seven targeted Japanese people and companies. The Public Security Investigation Agency, established in 1952, collects intelligence on extremist groups in line with the 1952 Antisubversive Activities Law which is designed to crack down on subversive groups.

BOJ: Overseas Economies Leaving Nation Behind

OW2412110593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1037 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Relatively well-performing overseas economies are leaving the weak Japanese economy even further behind, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) said in a report Friday [24 December].

The monthly report on overseas economies underscored the relatively strong performances in the United States, parts of Europe, and other Asian nations, compared with the stagnant Japanese economy, which the central bank said shows with no signs of recovery in a report earlier this week.

The U.S. economy remained in a "moderate expansion" phase on the back of "steady domestic demand including personal spending and capital spending with continued stable prices," the report said.

Despite the strong 2.9 percent real growth in the June-September quarter, the central bank called it "moderate" because the strong quarterly expansion was chiefly in reaction to weak performance in the previous quarter on account of the unusually bad summer, a BOJ official said.

The European Community economy as a whole stopped falling, but it is still too early to call it a recovery because of uncertainties over the German and French economies, the report said.

The British economy stayed in a "moderate recovery led by personal spending," it said.

But in Germany and France, there were no clear indications of a recovery, "with labor conditions waning further," despite a second consecutive quarter of economic growth posted in the third quarter this year in both nations.

Other Asian nations were "generally maintaining relatively high growth, supported by buoyant trade within the region and expansion of investment related to infrastructure improvements."

China hung on to its "high growth driven by capital investment, but prices continued to post a relatively high rise mainly in urban areas," the report said.

FY 92 Economic Growth Figures Revised Downward

OW2412012093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0050 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 0.4 percent in real terms in fiscal 1992, which ended in March, the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] said Friday, revising downward the previous estimate by 0.1 percentage point.

The nominal GDP in the year amounted to 465,431.2 billion yen, the EPA said.

The gross national product (GNP) in the year expanded 0.7 percent in real terms, also down 0.1 percentage point from the previous figure.

GNP measures the total output of a country's goods and services, while GDP excludes from GNP often volatile net inflows of income from abroad. Real GNP or GDP discounts inflation.

For fiscal 1991, the GDP growth figure was revised 0.3 point downward to 3.6 percent, and the GNP expansion rate by 0.2 point to the same 3.6 percent.

Simultaneous Tax Cut, Hike Plan 'Reconfirmed'

OW2412032193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0203 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Friday he has reconfirmed with the prime minister and the trade minister a plan to conduct an income tax cut and a consumption tax hike simultaneously. The reconfirmation came at a meeting Thursday [23 December] with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai, Fujii told reporters after a morning cabinet meeting.

Administrative vice ministers also attended, he said.

"We reconfirmed the initial policy," Fujii said, referring to a report submitted in November by the Tax Commission that called for an income tax cut as part of a package including a consumption tax hike. He noted that neither the composition of the fiscal 1994 budget, nor the timetable for tax reforms, were discussed.

Meanwhile, Fujii said the government plans to hold "at lunch time" a second meeting with leaders of the ruling coalition parties airing views on economic measures.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday.

But the situation is still "liquid," depending on a scheduled session of the House of Councillors' special committee on political reforms. The meeting, if held, is expected to focus on explanations, by Finance Ministry officials, of the current financial and tax conditions, he said.

Fujii Denies Reports of Advanced Income Tax Cut

OW2812102893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1020 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii on Tuesday [28 December] denied reports that he and other cabinet ministers have agreed to adopt a plan to cut income tax ahead of securing funds to finance the step.

The Finance Ministry will firmly maintain its policy of carrying out income tax reductions in a single package that includes a consumption tax hike, Fujii told reporters.

The comment came against newspaper reports that cabinet ministers of the ruling coalition government, during their morning meeting, agreed to reduce income tax before reaching a consensus on the issue of a consumption tax hike, as a way to turn around the sagging Japanese economy.

Both issues should be discussed for a conclusion "in a single manner," he said.

Fujii also denied a report that the ministry of international trade and industry favors advanced implementation of income tax cuts.

Fujii dismissed the idea of using public funds as a tool to help liquidate nonperforming loans gripping banks. Banks should have sole responsibility for disposing of bad loans, Fujii said.

Fujii was commenting on reports that Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), the largest party in the seven-party coalition, proposed a stimulus package including use of special lending by the Bank of Japan.

Hata on Income Tax Cut, Consumption Tax Hike

OW2812102693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata hinted Tuesday [28 December] that the government may implement an income tax cut without "simultaneously" raising the consumption tax from the current rate of 3 percent.

Hata, also deputy prime minister, told a luncheon meeting at the Japan National Press Club, "the government cannot proceed without implementing an income tax cut." However, Hata stopped short of ruling out a future raise in the consumption tax.

"It is a matter of common sense that the government cannot implement (an income tax cut and consumption tax raise) simultaneously," he said.

Hata said he backs a proposal to reconcile differences between the ruling coalition and the opposition Liberal Democratic Party over a package of political and electoral reform bills by arranging a meeting between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and LDP President Yohei Kono.

Ministers Support Early Income Tax Cut

OW2812042193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0351 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—The cabinet ministers of the coalition government called for an early income tax reduction Tuesday [28 December] to pull the nation's economy out of recession, though they expressed opposition to any compensatory hike in consumption tax. The ministers held a study meeting at the premier's official residence to consider the condition of the nation's economy, which has experienced its worst downturn since World War II.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Eijiro Hata said "the ministers agreed up to a point that (the government) will trim income tax" to prop up the flat economy. But ministers from the Social Democratic Party [of Japan], the largest member of the seven-party coalition government, expressed opposition to the idea of raising the consumption tax rate, which now stands at 3 percent, to cover the decline in tax revenues that would result from the anticipated income tax cut.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Takenori Kanzaki told the meeting that the government should discuss ways of securing the resources necessary to implement an income tax break, at the earliest possible time.

Also, Labor Minister Chikara Sakaguchi called on the government to clarify its budgetary strategy, which has included the implementation of a third supplementary budget for fiscal 1993.

Meanwhile, a leader of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), Kozo Watanabe, told a meeting of the party's members of the two Diet chambers that the government is unlikely to raise the consumption tax.

Watanabe, who now holds the party's co-leader post in place of Ichiro Ozawa, said the issuance of deficit-financing bonds as an alternative to the consumption tax hike is "inevitable."

The Finance Ministry has strongly opposed the issuance of deficit-covering bonds because of the future repayment burden they would create.

Economic Ministers, Coalition Discuss Taxes

OW2412070793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0614 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Cabinet ministers in charge of economic affairs and representatives of ruling parties studied the current tax system Friday [24 December] as part of efforts for its comprehensive reform, a government spokesman said. At the second meeting of an economic forum of the government and the coalition parties, participants discussed how to review the tax system on the basis of Finance Ministry data, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Hatoyama told a news conference.

Kozo Watanabe of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) proposed debating possible measures to stimulate the sluggish Japanese economy in lieu of focusing only on tax reform, Hatoyama said.

Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa reportedly spoke of the need for an overall review of the relationship between corporate and personal taxes.

The panel, formed on the orders of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, will give its stamp of approval to the premier's comments about the current economic situation at a news conference scheduled for later Friday, Hatoyama said.

The participants did not discuss possible income tax cuts, an issue over which ruling parties are split, according to the deputy chief cabinet secretary. While the Social Democratic Party [of Japan], the largest force within the coalition, is opposed to the idea of financing possible income tax cuts by raising the consumption tax, now standing at 3 percent, Shinseito and Komeito favor such a move.

The economic forum will hold its next meeting on Monday morning.

LDP's Economic Package Features Land Use

OW2412115393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1139 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—The opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) unveiled Friday [24 December] a package of economy stimulus measures featuring ways to stimulate real estate transactions. The party, which was toppled from power in August after 38 years of uninterrupted rule, said the package will cause spillover economic effects worth an estimated 7 trillion yen.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, chairman of the party's Policy Affairs Research Council, told reporters all measures incorporated in the package can be implemented immediately but if legislation is necessary the party will submit it to the Diet for approval.

The package calls for the establishment of a new organization designed to promote the effective use of idle land and limiting a tax reduction on gains from real estate transactions to two years to prevent the resurgence of the bubble economy. The program calls for lowering the tax rate on gains from sale of real estate to 26 percent from the present 39 percent.

The party said its program will help promote housing construction, reinvigorate securities trading and enhance employment opportunities.

It urged the coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to put into effect fiscal and monetary measures to support the program.

The package also includes measures to support farmers who suffered from poor rice harvest this year.

Housing Starts' Rise Over 1992 Reported

OW2712060293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0516 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—Japan's housing starts in November rose 8.7 percent from a year before to 131,129 units, for the 18th straight month of increase, the Construction Ministry reported Monday [27 December]. The November rise followed a 7.8 percent increase in October.

Starts on owner-occupied houses gained 7.0 percent to 39,635 units, following a 27.9 percent surge in October. It was the sixth straight month of year-to-year increase in this category.

Construction with loans from private financial institutions decreased 0.4 percent for the 17th straight month of decline, while public-funded construction jumped 12.6 percent for the 22nd straight month of increase, the ministry said.

Starts on houses for rent slipped 1.2 percent to 62,073 units, following a 9.8 percent drop in October, the seventh straight month of decline from a year earlier, the ministry said.

Starts on houses for sale soared 48.1 percent to 26,640 units for the seventh straight month of increase. The year-on-year rise stood at 37.7 percent in October.

In the Tokyo area, housing starts rose 1.7 percent in November, while the gain was 4.1 percent in the Nagoya area and 27.2 percent in the Osaka area.

Starts on new houses for sale in the Tokyo area surged 52.4 percent, while the increase was 71.6 percent for the Nagoya region and 77.5 percent for the Osaka area.

Local Governments 'Moving' To Cut Spending

OW2712092093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—Many prefectures and big cities in Japan are moving to cut back on spending under their budgets for fiscal 1994, starting next April 1, in the face of tax revenue shortfalls, according to a KYODO NEWS SERVICE survey published Monday [27 December].

Twenty metropolitan and prefectural governments and nine governments of cities with the population of more than 500,000 have adopted lower limits for budgetary requests from their various departments under a belt-tightening measure for the year, the survey showed.

Each department is being asked to cut back regular expenses in fiscal 1994 by 5 to 10 percent from the current year.

It also showed that some governments are expanding public investments to help boost the local economy and issuing bonds to secure funds.

Kanagawa Prefecture, including Yokohama, has cut its limit for budgetary requests by 20 percent from fiscal 1993 and is seeking to cut its work force by 5 percent.

The Tokyo metropolitan government is putting all major projects on hold, and the Chiba prefectural government wants to cut expenses for stationery and other supplies by 15 percent.

BOJ Loans Urged To Help Small Financiers

OW2812124193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0422 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—One of the parties in the ruling coalition, Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], called for special central bank loans Tuesday [28 December] to help small financial institutions eliminate bad loans. The call for Bank of Japan (BOJ) loans was contained in a package of economic stimulation measures proposed by Shinseito to revive the slumping economy.

It also called for major income tax cuts and a reduction in the official discount rate to 0.5 percent per annum or less. The key lending rate, charged by the BOJ on its loans to commercial banks, currently stands at a record low 1.75 percent.

The package gave no specifics on the size of income tax cuts, amid serious differences in the ruling coalition over the issue.

To aid smaller financial institutions, the package proposed that a special organization be established to take over their nonperforming loans and that the central bank provide loans to the organization. Government sources expressed doubts over the proposal to use central bank funds to aid a special industrial sector.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura declined comment on the proposal.

Labor Law Revised To Shorten Work Week

OW2412030093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0232 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—The government on Friday adopted revised labor-related ordinances which include moratoriums for small enterprises on shortening weekly work hours. The new ordinances approved at a morning cabinet meeting also call for a hike in the premium for working on national holidays to 35 percent from the present 25 percent of the wages.

The ordinances are set in line with a revision of the Labor Standard Law, which calls for shortening weekly work hours to 40 from the current 44 hours.

Small companies and industries which have difficulties in cutting work hours will be given a moratorium until the end of March 1997, which allows them to maintain the work week up to 44 hours.

The revised ordinances also allow special treatment for four categories of businesses, including movie and theater operators, with employees of nine or less, fixing official weekly hours for those at 46 hours instead of 40 hours by the end of March 1995.

Mazda Plans To Step Up Production Cutbacks

OW2512094993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 25 KYODO—Major Japanese automaker Mazda Motor Corp. said Saturday [25 December] it will increase production cutbacks to cope with the protracted recession.

The Hiroshima-based affiliate of U.S. automaker Ford Motor Co. said it will give its 1,600 employees four extra days off in January to reduce vehicle production. The step will result in a production decrease of 3,000 passenger cars, the company said.

The company enforced two extra holidays in November as part of production adjustments.

North Korea

ROK Reportedly Purchase Tear Gas

SK2212121593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—The South Korean fascist clique appropriated 602.8 million won for the purchase of teargas next year, according to the South Korean newspaper HANGYORE SINMUN.

This was disclosed in the "1994 budget bill for the suppression of demonstrations" submitted by the police agency to the "National Assembly". This fund will be used in purchasing more than 80,700 teargas canisters, or four times those used this year.

This fact shows how desperately the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique is trying to suppress the patriotic people calling for independence, democracy and reunification after revealing its true color as a group of "civilian" fascists.

Commentary Denounces Kim Yong-sam's Regime

SK2512055993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Commentary by Chong Pong-kil: "The True Nature of the Civilian Fascist Which Has Been Clearly Revealed"]

[Text] According to South Korea's HANGYORE SINMUN, the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique has appropriated approximately 602.8 million won from its budget to purchase tear gas next year. This fact has been revealed by the puppet police office's budget-related documents for 1994 submitted to the National Assembly in connection with the suppression of demonstrators. The puppet police office has planed to purchase approximately 80,700 units of tear gas next year, which amounts to four times as much as those required this year.

This indicates that the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique is going to further strengthen its future fascist suppression upon the patriotic people who struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification. As a result, the dirty and true nature of the civilian fascist regime has been revealed as it really is.

As everyone knows, the Kim Yong-sam clique has loudly babbled about civilian politics. It has been nearly a year since the civilian government was formed. Nevertheless, absolutely no changes have been made in South Korea. Instead, the most basic and democratic freedoms and rights of the people as well as their right to live are being brutally infringed upon by the Kim Yong-sam clique.

During the election campaign, the treacherous Kim Yong-sam talked as if he would revise the National Security Law. However, after taking over power, he has not kept his promise to revise the National Security Law, saying it is too early to abolish it. Up to date, he has used the National Security Law as a fascist stick of the civilian government without revising even a clause of the law, which is the most violent, vicious, and evil law among fascist evil laws.

Also, the present fascist organization to suppress the people has not only maintained the sixth Republic's fascist system as it is, but it has also strengthened it further.

Because of the South Korean people's resistance, the Kim Yong-sam clique has showed signs of cutting the size of the Agency for National Security Planning. It has, however, sent agents to each department and bureau of the puppet administration and some of them have set up the so-called society for the study of policy there. Actually, the Kim Yong-sam clique has further strengthened the agency by establishing the so-called planning bureau for a strategy against the North within it.

In February, the Kim Yong-sam clique formulated plans to strengthen the police task force units to crack down on demonstrations by increasing its riot policemen by 17,000 individuals. Up to date, it has increased its riot policemen force to approximately 39,000 people in 247 companies. It has deployed the additional police facilities, including approximately 1,570 [word indistinct] patrol vehicles, across South Korea to suppress the people.

By applying these fascist evil laws and manipulating these facilities, the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique is savagely suppressing the just struggle of the South Korean people for their independence, democracy, and reunification as well as the labor disputes of workers for their right to live.

On 20 July, the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique exercised the so-called emergency arbitration right, which had never been exercised even by the former dictators, to brutally suppress a labor dispute of Hyundai automobile workers. This is an example of its suppression of the South Korean people.

With the establishment of the police's new task units and with the increase of their facilities to suppress the people, the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique has decided to buy more tear gas, four times the amount required this year.

The large-scale cabinet reshuffle recently carried out by the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique was intended as a part of criminal plots to fortify its ruling foundation and to further strengthen its fascist suppression on the South Korean people.

How can the Kim Yong-sam clique put the military gangsters and treacherous figures—who regard it as their job to suppress the people and to sell the nation—on the posts of power if it really or even a little considers the future of the country and the nation?

All these facts prove that the Kim Yong-sam clique is the fascist tyrant, who is more vicious than the former fascist dictators, and that its fascist dictatorship—which is being cunningly carried out under the cloak of the civilian government—is more vicious and tricky than the military dictatorship, which had been openly committed by the former fascist dictators.

The Kim Yong-sam clique has only talked about the civilian government or reforms up to the date, but, in actuality, it has strengthened the civilian fascist dictatorship and suppressed the just struggle of the South Korean people for their independence, democracy, and reunification. Also, it has committed a treacherous and criminal act of selling the interest of the country and the nation.

The nation-selling and treacherous act by the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique teaches the South Korean people the lesson that they cannot expect anything from the government, which ignores independence, democracy, and reunification, even if it laudably talks about the civilian government or reform.

The South Korean people must increase vigilance against the Kim Yong-sam clique, a master in committing treacherous acts, and the time has come to totally sum up the Kim Yong-sam clique's betrayal and criminal acts which have been committed for nearly a year since it took over power.

The Kim Yong-sam groups must clearly know that their fascist oppressive maneuvers will only hasten their ruin and must act with discretion. It is better for them to immediately resign from the posts of power by admitting to the criminal acts they have committed up to date.

Papers Criticize Amnesty Given by Kim Yong-sam

SK2512053593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 25 Dec 93

["Papers on 'Amnesty and Reinstatement' by Kim Yong-sam"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 25 (KCNA)—Papers here today comment on the Christmas "special amnesty and reinstatement" by the traitor Kim Yong-sam, the puppet, on December 23.

Calling attention to the fact that the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique in the "amnesty and reinstatement" left out all the prisoners of conscience including "political prisoners" and most of those released were "on parole, a NODONG SINMUN analyst points out:

The "amnesty and reinstatement" by traitor Kim Yong-sam is one more farce for a propaganda purpose motivated by a sinister political stratagem.

Kim Yong-sam the puppet was compelled to stage such a farce by the hopeless crisis of his rule.

South Korean people brand Kim Yong-sam as the worst villain and traitor putting the preceding military fascist dictators into the shade and are strongly demanding the resignation of his "government". The voices demanding his overthrow has grown louder after he committed unpardonable crimes in trying to stifle fellow countrymen with the help of nuclear stick of foreign forces, dancing to their tune, and in cutting off the lifeline of the South Korean peasants by opening the rice market.

Finding himself on the brink of a cliff, forsaken by the people, Kim Yong-sam the puppet kicks up a row of dismissing his underlings through "cabinet shakeup" and "party reshuffle" before bringing forward the trite scenario of "amnesty and reinstatement" in an effort to bridge over the crisis of his tottering "regime".

The Kim Yong-sam clique should stop fooling people before inviting a stronger resistance of the people.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst says that the Kim Yong-sam group should not resort to such absurd stopgap measure as burying its head in the sand like an ostrich to get rid of the crisis, but abolish the "National Security Law" and other fascist laws and dismantle the "Security Planning Board" and other suppressive machines and unconditionally and immediately release all the illegally arrested political prisoners and unconverted long-term prisoners.

Rallies in South on Market Rice Opening Noted

SK2412071993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 24 (KCNA)—An estimated 5,000 farmers and students held a provincial rally in Chonju, North Cholla Province, South Korea Thursday to vow to check the import of agricultural produce, a radio report from Seoul said.

The ralliers bitterly denounced the puppet clique's rice market opening which would drive the South Korean farmers to the depth of misery and threaten the existence of the nation, and vowed to check the passage of the rice market opening bill through the "National Assembly."

They decided to wage a massive movement of the people to check rice market opening.

After the rally, they held a street demonstration.

Kim Yong-sam Criticized for Opening Rice Market

SK2812110093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 28 Dec 93

["South Korean Rice Market Opening, Treachery Against Nation and Farmers"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Monday carried an article by Prof. and Dr. Pak Tong-kun on the puppet Kim Yong-sam's treacherous opening of the South Korean rice market.

The author says:

The traitor Kim Yong-sam declared the opening of the rice market, going back on his promise that he would check rice market opening, staking the "presidency," if he was elected "president". This is little different from the treachery of the "five traitors of 1905" who sold off the political sovereignty of the country to the Japanese imperialists through the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" in 1905.

Rice market opening is a product of the U.S. strategy of dominating the world's economy and, more exactly, the extension and culmination of the import of surplus agricultural produce forced on South Korea by the U.S. imperialists since August 15, 1945.

After occupying South Korea illegally, the United States dumped rotten flour, cotton and sugar extract at first under the name of "grant aid" in order to turn South Korea into a market of its surplus agricultural products, and then institutionalized the dumping policy by concluding an "agreement on aid in surplus agricultural products" in May 1955. When the dumping of surplus agricultural products in "loan" ended at the end of the 1970s, the United States began to hurl them into South Korea in the form of general trade and has forced the opening of agro-market on South Korea step by step. As a result, the value of the South Korean puppets' import of agricultural and aquatic products rose to 7.1 billion dollars from two billion dollars and the amount of imported grain jumped to 12 million tons from 5.05 million tons in the 1980-1992 period.

Rice market opening by Kim Yong-sam the puppet is all the more treacherous in view of its content and impact because he abandoned the last shred of economic sovereignty to please his master, bringing catastrophic consequences to the economy and the people's livelihood and deepening South Korea's colonial dependence.

Rice market opening means a total abandonment of the nominal "customs sovereignty" of South Korea. When the rice market is opened, the "customs sovereignty" in the import of all commodities including other agricultural products and the already "liberalised" industrial products will be obliterated totally. This means that South Korea will be finally deprived of economic sovereignty from the "legal" point of view.

Rice market opening will lower the environment protection function of paddy farming, inflicting disasters on the people. When paddy farming is destroyed with the total opening of rice market, the environment protection function of paddy fields in South Korea will disappear.

Rice market opening will deepen South Korea's economic dependence.

By grasping the food administration of South Korea by means of agricultural produce, especially rice, the United States intends to impose a new yoke on the South Korean people for intensifying economic plunder and constantly strengthening economic and political domination.

When rice import becomes obligatory and the import of agricultural produce is totally liberalised, the annual amount of grain import of South Korea will increase to 15 million tons from the present 12 million tons, the food self-sufficiency rate will drop below the level of ten percent, particularly the self-sufficiency rate of staple food including rice and barley will decrease remarkably. Then, "food slavery" will become a stark reality as is much apprehended by the South Korean people, and the South Korean puppets will have no alternative but to leave everything, political, economic, military and cultural, to the mercy of the United States in face of the latter's threat with the "food weapon."

The opening of South Korea's rice market is a crime against the farmers and the nation in that it was declared with no measure to defend the vital rights of farmers in sight.

People in South 'Admire' Kim Chong-il's Mother

SK2512033593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] A mythical story spread among residents in the Yangyang area in Kangwon Province, South Korea, today is widely spread among the South Korean people and touches their hearts endlessly.

In the autumn immediately after the 15 August national liberation, waves of the East Sea [Sea of Japan] surged exceptionally high and autumn leaves in Mt. Sorak were dyed red. At this time, three lodestars [changgunbyol] including a great general star, a woman general star, and a child general star, appeared in the sky of Yangyang brightly illuminating it. The great general star was the star of General Kim Il-song, the woman general star was the star of Madam Kim Chong-suk [Kim Il-song's former wife and mother of Kim Chong-il], and the child general star was the star of Mr. [sonsaeng] Kim Chong-il. Today, this child general star is brightly shining as the sun of guidance.

The South Korean people, who joyfully talked about this mythical story, endlessly admire Comrade Kim Chong-suk—an indomitable and unswerving communist revolutionary fighter and an anti-Japanese heroine—as a woman general of the Korean people and as a model for the Korean women of endlessly noble temperament.

A certain woman called Hong, a resident in Yangsan, South Kyongsang Province, said that when she studied in Japan, she heard many times about the biography of Madam Kim Chong-suk from Korean women students in Japan. She said to the women in the village as follows:

When she fought in Mt. Paektu against the Japanese rascals, Madam Kim Chong-suk not only achieved the reputation as an anti-Japanese woman general and as an outstanding markswoman but also was an endlessly benevolent woman who loved her comrades and regarded their pains as her own.

Even after she returned in triumph to the liberated fatherland, she devoted everything to the building of a new fatherland by upholding the intentions of the general. She even delayed visiting her home and devoted herself to the work. Indeed, Madam Kim Chong-suk is the model of woman fighters.

In a seminar on women's issues, held in a college in Seoul, a certain coed called Sin said as follows:

A great number of stories about famous women and about women's feats have been passed on among the people of the world. However, we have not heard of an outstanding woman fighter such as Madam Kim Chong-suk who dedicated her whole life to liberation of the fatherland, to the emancipation of mankind, and to the happiness of the masses.

For this, our people cannot suppress our due national pride. Madam Kim Chong-suk is indeed a patriot who endlessly loved the nation and was a heroine whom the Korean people held in high esteem.

Expressing deep emotion for this, a certain college student called Hwang said that the women in the South should learn from the patriotism of Madam Kim Chong-suk and should actively rise in the emancipation of women and in the national liberation front.

It is not only the South Korean people who hold in high esteem Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter and an anti-Japanese heroine, and who cherish a great national pride. Such voices of praise and admiration are highly resounding from overseas among Korean compatriots who are making efforts for national reunification.

A certain Korean woman residing in Germany, after visiting the fatherland twice, said to the compatriots as follows:

Madam Kim Chong-suk was not only the woman fighter who fought for the nation's liberation with arms in her hands but also a benevolent mother who visited the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy after she returned in triumph to the liberated fatherland and gave endless love to orphaned children. By mingling with the women, she led them to become the masters of the nation.

Indeed, Madam Kim Chong-suk will be permanently alive in our people's hearts.

A woman who is engaged in service work in Los Angeles, after returning from a visit to her relatives in the fatherland, said to her colleagues the following:

I realized on many occasions that the compatriots in the fatherland hold in high esteem Madam Kim Chong-suk and follow her because she was a great heroine who made unprecedented achievements in our national history and who made immortal contributions to the history of the international women's movement.

The precious achievements made by this woman in the liberation of mankind are the model and example that our women compatriots should follow. She stressed that our overseas women compatriots should devote their bodies and hearts to national reunification by following the noble intentions to love the nation cherished by Madam Kim Chong-suk.

Report on U.S., ROK 'Chemical Warfare' Cited

SK2812103793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 28 (KCNA)—The Nigerian newspaper SUNDAY CHAMPION December 19 shed a revealing light on preparations of the United States and South Korean authorities for a chemical warfare.

Recalling that the United States had used germ and chemical weapons in the Korean and Vietnamese wars, the paper said after the Korean war it has shipped into South Korea quantities of chemical weapons, and the South Korean authorities are preparing for a chemical warfare after stockpiling a large amount of chemical weapons under the U.S. patronage.

It pointed out the fact that the South Korean authorities recently decided to produce chemical weapons at a "meeting of departments concerned" and agreed to raise it at the "National Assembly".

At present, the South Korean authorities have some ten chemical weapon plants and have stockpiled more than 25,000 chemical weapons, it noted.

Denouncing the United States and the South Korean authorities for getting overheated in their chemical war preparations, the paper urged that the U.S. should withdraw its nuclear and chemical weapons from South Korea and the production of chemical weapons in South Korea should not be allowed.

U.S. Said To Conduct 'Bombing Exercise' 21 Dec

SK2312054593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists committed a long-distance bombing exercise against the northern half of Korea on December 21, according to military sources.

Formations of U.S. fighter-bombers, pursuit-assault planes and VTOL [Vertical Take Off and Landing] planes based in the Pacific region and Japan were mobilized in the aggressive war game in coordination with flying groups of the Air Force and Navy in the skies above Yongwol and Pyongchang areas of South Korea.

This is a part of the premeditated provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists to realise its attempt to invade the North.

100th Anniversary of Mao Zedong's Birth Marked

SK2612090393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0817 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates an editorial article to the centenary of the birth of Mao Zedong.

The whole life of Comrade Mao Zedong was a brilliant life entirely dedicated to the liberation and prosperity of China and to the victorious advance of socialism and the international communist movement and a noble life through which he showed a noble example as a staunch revolutionary, an internationalist, the article says, and goes on:

Comrade Mao Zedong was a great leader who led the revolutionary cause of the Chinese people along the road of victory.

He shaped correct lines and policies by applying Marxism-Leninism creatively to suit the specific conditions of the Chinese revolution and successfully carried them into revolutionary practice, leading the Chinese revolution to victory.

He founded the Communist Party of China, the guiding force of the Chinese people, and strengthened and developed it through a struggle against all shades of opportunists within the party and class enemies at home and abroad.

He founded the Chinese People's Liberation Army and strengthened and developed it into revolutionary Armed Forces.

By leading the party, the Army and the people he toppled the imperialist, feudalistic and bureaucratic reactionary rule and triumphantly accomplished the people's revolution and founded the People's Republic of China.

The victory of the people's revolution and the foundation of the People's Republic in China was an epochal event which marked a new origin in the history of the Chinese people and greatly contributed to the development of the world revolution.

Comrade Mao Zedong was a closest friend of the Korean people who established deep intimacy with Comrade Kim Il-song and made distinguished contributions to the strengthening and development of the Korea-China friendship.

Setting store by revolutionary fidelity and class principle, he rendered sincere aid to the revolutionary struggle of the Korean people. During the fatherland liberation war he sent a large number of fine sons and daughters of the Chinese people including his son to the Korean front and helped the Korean people in their just struggle at the cost of blood under the banner of "Resisting America and aiding Korea, safeguarding the home and defending the motherland". He also actively helped the Korean people in their postwar rehabilitation and construction and socialist construction and consistently supported their just struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Our people will always remember the immortal feats performed by Comrade Mao, a close comrade-in-arms of the Korean people, in strengthening the fraternal friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Chinese peoples.

His noble feats for the Chinese revolution and the international communist movement will be everlasting and immortal.

Pakistan, Mozambique Support Kim Il-song

SK2312070493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0417 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA)—The Pakistani and Mozambican presidents expressed support to the just cause of the Korean people when they met the Korean ambassadors to their countries recently.

Pakistani President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said that His Excellency President Kim Il-song has wisely led the struggle of the Korean people to achieve the independence of the country and defend its sovereignty.

He stressed that Korea would be able to overcome any difficulty as it is led by the president.

Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano expressed firm support to the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo advanced by the great leader President Kim Il- song, saying it is the most fair and aboveboard proposal for reunification correctly reflecting the realities of the North and the South of Korea.

He also expressed full support to the stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to solve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way through the DPRK-US talks.

Kim Il-song Sends Wreath to An Tal-su Bier

SK2212131293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has sent a wreath to the bier of the late Comrade An Tal-su.

Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, expressed his deep regret over the death of Labor Hero Comrade An Tal-su, deputy of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, and sent a wreath to his bier on 22 December.

Papers Feature Kim Chong-il as KPA Commander

SK2412072293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 24 Dec 93

["KPA Invincible Under Leadership of Supreme Commander"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 24 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry editorials on the lapse of two years since the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was elected supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] on December 24, 1991.

The editorial of NODONG SINMUN describes his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army two years ago as an epoch-making event which brought about a new turn in the efforts to strengthen the KPA and accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is quoted as saying:

"Comrade Kim Chong-il was elected supreme commander of the Korean People's Army at the 19th plenary meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of our party. This was a high tribute to his qualities and revolutionary exploits and an expression of the unshakable will of our party and people to carry the revolutionary cause of chuche to accomplishment under his leadership."

The editorial continues:

The election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army was an expression of the absolute trust of our people and KPA soldiers in their leader and a manifestation of the unshakable will of our party and people to defend and accomplish the socialist cause of chuche.

We have been able to win victory after victory in the acute military and political confrontation with the enemy without a gun report because our supreme commander, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, leads our revolutionary Armed Forces.

Today the KPA is steadily growing in strength as a most powerful revolutionary army which can firmly defend the party and the socialist cause in any adversity under his leadership.

One of his distinguished exploits in the chuche cause of army building is that he has built the whole army as combat ranks with loyalty and filial piety and brought the political and ideological advantages of our army into fullest play.

Under his leadership, the political and ideological traits of our People's Army have reached a high plane. It finds clear expression in the revolutionary military discipline holding sway in the whole army.

During the semi-war state, the officers and men of the KPA rose up as one with an indomitable spirit, not allowing the enemy to tread on an inch of land and a blade of grass in our territory. They are still in full preparedness for combat mobilization.

Another immortal exploit of Comrade Kim Chong-il is that he has increased the military potentials of the KPA so that each armyman can defeat a hundred foes.

The policy of making the whole army a cadre army and modernizing it has been thoroughly implemented under his wise guidance, with the result that all the soldiers have grown to be competent combatants and all the units have been armed with powerful and modern weapons and combat technical equipment. Whatever surprise attack the enemy may make, our army is fully prepared to defend the socialist motherland of chuche as firm as an iron wall.

An important exploit of Comrade Kim Chong-il is that he has brought the great idea of army-people unity into full bloom.

It is the highest honor and happiness of our party, people and revolutionary Armed Forces to have at their head the illustrious leader who has mastered the pen and the sword and leads our people to victory and glory, attaching the greatest importance to the military affairs in state activities.

The editorial of MINJU CHOSON stresses that victory and glory are always in store for our army and people advancing full of confidence and vigour with the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, a great military genius and ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, at the head of the revolutionary Armed Forces.

Kim Chong-il's 'Warm Love for the People' Noted

SK2612091093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0834 GMT 26 Dec 93

["Invincible Is Our-Style Socialism With Politics of Great Love and Trust"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 26 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great statesman leading the cause of our-style socialism to a brilliant victory with politics of deep trust in and love of the people, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article Sunday.

The article says his is politics of warm love and trust in the people, a magnanimous politics.

It quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Now our people call the politics of Comrade Kim Chong-il politics of love, politics of trust and politics of magnanimity. This is an expression of their trust in and praise of him who believes in them and devotes his all to the struggle for their sake."

The article goes on:

The main characteristic of the politics of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is his fervent loving care for and unquestioned trust in his revolutionary comrades and people.

His is politics of warm love for the people.

Comrade Kim Chong-il looks after all the people throughout the country, gives them priceless political integrity, leads them to live a worthy life and spares nothing for their happiness and future.

His is also politics of infinite trust in his revolutionary comrades and people.

Once he believes in a man, he takes care of him and holds him dear as his revolutionary comrade and assumes full responsiblity for his destiny.

Comrade Kim Chong-il values loyalty of officials, believes in them under any circumstances and leads them to exalt their political integrity.

His politics is also a magnanimous politics of looking after all the people throughout the country.

His magnanimous politics is a great and benevolent politics of regarding not only the hardcore masses including workers, peasants and intellecutuals but even those with complicated family and socio-political backgrounds eternal companions of the revolution and taking warm care of them.

Comrade Kim Chong-il leniently embraces the erstwhile anti-communist elements or those who had committed crimes against the nation, if they support socialism and devotedly work for the people.

The Korean-style socialism under the dear leader's politics of love and trust, magnanimous politics has been consolidated into an invincible bulwark, the article says, and goes on:

Comrade Kim Chong-il's politics, is above all, the source of great strength that gives birth to loyalty and filial piety among our party members and other working people and makes our revolutionary ranks invincible.

His politics of love and trust gives our people and revolutionary soldiers infinite pride and happiness in life and it is the nutrient and motive force of the revolution that enables our people to advance along the road of the glorious revolution to the end with loyalty and filial piety. It is thanks to his politics of love and trust that our party and revolutionary ranks have grown stronger and invincible revolutionary Armed Forces have been built.

His politics of love and trust has also brought beautiful communist traits into full bloom throughout the country and turned the whole society into one big revolutionary family.

The relationship between the leader and his soldiers, between the leader and the people in our country now has become relationship of love between the father and his children, taking care of and entrusting their destiny.

The spirit of collectivism and revolutionary comradeship of devoting their everything for the country and the people, for the society and collective on the basis of deepest trust in and intense loyalty to their leader are important characteristics of the revolutionary traits of our society.

In our country today the beautiful tradition of Army-civilian unity has come into fuller bloom under the wise guidance of our Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

This great close unity and cohesion of the Army and people in upholding their leader is the source of the invincible might of the Korean-style socialism.

The illustrious leader's politics of love and trust has made our people a true people with noble revolutionary fidelity and comradeship and brought about a proud reality unprecedented in history in which the whole society has formed one big revolutionary family with the leader as their father.

However desperately the imperialists and reactionaries may try to stifle our republic and destroy socialism of our own style, they can never arrest the advance of the people who are defending and upholding their leader with loyalty and filial piety, the article says, and stresses:

The Korean-style socialism under which benevolent politics of the illustrious leader is in force is invincible forever.

Communist 'Frontrankers' Hold Nationwide Meetings

SK2612085793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 26 (KCNA)—Meetings of frontrankers in beautiful communist traits were held in all provinces, cities, counties, complexes and Korean People's Army units following the national meeting which took place in Pyongyang.

A congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] was read out at the meetings.

Reports and speeches were made there.

Reporters and speakers pointed out that the meetings of frontrankers in beautiful communist traits marked an important occasion in consolidating the proud achievements made in rearing chuche-type communistic human beings under the wise guidance of the party, further cementing the ideological and moral foundations of our society and accelerating the cause of socialist construction as a whole.

They said the first sprouts of beautiful communist traits which are now deep-rooted in the life of the Korean people grew in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle under the guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and they have been constantly expanded and developed as the party put forward a unique policy of remoulding people through positive examples in various stages of the revolution and construction and has successfully materialized it by carrying forward their brilliant traditions.

They noted that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has further developed in depth the chuche-based idea and theory on true outlook on life and morality, ushered in a great heyday of singlehearted unity with his benevolent politics, politics of unity and brought noble communist traits to come into full bloom throughout the society.

They called for fully displaying beautiful communist traits, the revolutionary traits of staunchly fighting for the victory of the socialist cause, strengthening the singlehearted unity of the party and revolutionary ranks and making the traits of devotedly working for the country and the people, for the society and collective prevail in the society by carrying out the highly important tasks set out in the congratulatory message of the C.C. [Central Committee], WPK and upholding the resolution of the 21st plenary meeting of the 6th WPK Central Committee and thus consolidating and exalting the Korean-style socialism centred on the masses.

Messages of pledge to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted at the meeting .

Meetings Publicize Economic Adjustment Period

SK2312065493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 23 Dec 93

["Working People of Korea Vow To Carry Through Decision of Plenary Meeting of C.C. (Central Committee), WPK (Workers' Party of Korea)"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 23 (KCNA)—Mass meetings to carry through the decision of the 21st plenary meeting of the sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were held in provinces.

The meetings were recently held in Yanggang and South Pyongan Provinces and Kaesong Municipality.

At the meetings, the reporters and speakers recalled that the plenary meeting set two or three years to come as a period of adjustment in the socialist economic construction and put forward a strategic policy of directing primary efforts to agriculture, light industry and foreign trade in this period. They stressed the need to give full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work in carrying out the strategic policy.

They said that by resolutely maintaining the traditional work style of solving all the questions arising in the socialist construction with their own efforts from the chuche-based stand, they would decisively smash all sorts of challenge and obstructive moves of the imperialists and reactionaries, resolutely adhere to Korean-style socialism and firmly defend the dignity and honor of the motherland.

Party's New Economic Strategy Discussed

SK2812053793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0200 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Unattributed talk: "Our Party's Economic Strategy Is a Revolutionary Economic Construction Policy That Further Enhances the Superiority of Socialism of Our Own Style"]

[Text] All party members and the working people throughout the country are vigorously accelerating a new march, upholding the decision of the 21st Plenary Session of the Sixth Party Central Committee. Based on a deep analysis of the changed circumstances of our country and the present demands of socialist construction, the recent plenary session of the party Central Committee set the next two to three years as a readjustment period for socialist economic construction and presented a strategic policy for pursuing an agriculture, light industry, and trade-first policy during this period. This is a wise measure which makes it possible to strengthen and develop socialist economic construction to a higher level while consolidating the successes attained in the accomplishment of the Third Seven-Year Plan.

The economic strategy of our country is a revolutionary economic construction policy which reflects our party's plan to further enhance the superiority of socialism of our own style by effecting a new upsurge in economic construction.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: Properly carrying out socialist economic construction is precisely an important revolutionary task facing our party at the present time. Only when we properly carry out socialist economic construction can we further strengthen the might of our socialism and improve the people's livelihood.

Today we are accelerating socialist economic construction in complicated and acute international circumstances. Aiming the brunt of their antisocialist offensive at us, the imperialists and reactionaries are viciously attempting to isolate [korip] and suffocate [chilsik] us politically, militarily, and economically.

On the other hand, the frustration and collapse of numerous socialist markets in the world has also brought drastic changes to our country's external economic relations.

The circumstances of today demand that economic construction be vigorously accelerated so that our economy can be further strengthened and developed into a mighty economy which can survive on its own strength under any conditions. Proceeding from such demands, our party presented at the recent plenary session a most wise economic construction policy which accords with the fundamental interests of our revolution and construction and reflects the aspiration and desire of our people. The intent of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to see to it that the vitality of our socialist economic foundation that our people have achieved by the sweat of their brows under the wise leadership of the great leader is more highly enhanced dwells precisely in this. This is why our party's revolutionary economic strategy grasps our people's hearts tightly with a great driving force.

Our party's revolutionary economic strategy is, first of all, to epochally promote the people's livelihood in the near future so that the superiority of our socialism can be further enhanced. Herein lie its correctness and great significance. Our party's position to take it as a most important key to enhance the superiority of socialism of our own style to promote the people's livelihood is firm and invariable.

The strategic policy presented at the recent plenary session envisages increases in state investments in the sectors directly related to the people's livelihood, including agriculture, light industry, and external trade and to vigorously accelerate development in these sectors. When this strategic policy is materialized, the people's century-long desire to live in tile-roofed houses, to eat rice and meat soup and wear silk clothes, will be brilliantly realized, and our people's material and cultural life will be more abundant and ample in conformity with the inherent demands of socialism. When the party's revolutionary economic strategy is implemented, the superiority of socialism over capitalism will be vigorously demonstrated, and the vitality and driving force of the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style will be further demonstrated.

The correctness of the revolutionary ecomomic strategy presented by the party in the plenary session lies in further strengthening the independence and self-reliance of our economy and firmly deepening the country's economic might.

We have registered great successes in the development of the national economy during the Third Seven-Year period. The party's revolutionary economic strategy consolidates these successes and elucidates the road of strengthening the self-reliance and might of our economy.

During the readjustment period, we are to further perfect all departments with a view to strengthening the self-reliance of the national economy. We are to continue concentrating efforts on the coal industry, power industry, railway, and transportation sectors, which are the leading sectors of the national economy, and, thus, to more smoothly solve the fuel, power, and transportation problems.

With the implementation of the revolutionary economic strategy, we will be able to drastically develop our economy on the strength of the inexhaustible potential of our self-reliant economy and our rich natural resources. We will also be able to vigorously accelerate economic construction without vacillation in the face of the imperialists' economic blockade and world-wide economic crisis.

Indeed, our party's revolutionary economic strategy is the banner of struggle which makes it possible to resolutely safeguard and defend socialism of our own style. It is also a strong weapon which makes it possible to effect another new revolutionary upsurge in revolution and construction.

The start of the revolutionary economic strategy is a clear demonstration of the wisdom of the leadership of the party and the leader [syryong] who have illuminated the road ahead for economic construction with extraordinary wisdom and insight and who have led our people to brilliant exploits and innovation.

Our party and people have come to have this great economic strategy which firmly guarantees the future of socialism of our own style and the grandeur and prosperity of our fatherland because they uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the genius of creation and construction and an excellent strategist.

All functionaries, party members, and the working people should unanimously rise up in the struggle to implement the party's revolutionary economic strategy and resolutely fight for it. Thus, they should brilliantly implement our party's grand plan for socialist construction.

We should first complete the rural technological revolution in the agricultural sector and carry out farming scientifically and technologically in accordance with the demands of the chuche farming method. Thus, we should develop all sectors of agricultural production to a new high level. Along with this, we should readjust and strengthen light industry plants in the light industry sector; should modernize them, and should further strengthen the production of light industry raw materials, including chemical fibres and synthetic resins. At the same time, all sectors of the national economy should firmly build production bases for export products, should expand and strengthen the production of export products, and should actively pioneer foreign markets. Thus, they should effect a new turn in the development of external trade.

To thoroughly implement the strategic policy of socialist economic construction presented by the party, it is important to display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. All functionaries, party members, and the working people should be deeply aware that achieving self-reliance is the only way to surmount the imperialists' pressure and blockade and defend socialism and effect economic upsurges, and should lift higher the revolutionary banner of self-reliance, which has been rising ever since the days of anti-Japanese revolution.

To thoroughly implement the revolutionary policy of socialist economic construction, it is imperative for all sectors of the national economy to assiduously carry out economic management and overall economic activities in all sectors of the national economy and to vigorously wage the struggle for increased production and conservation. It is also imperative for guidance functionaries to closely plan and organize economic organizational work and economic commanding work.

In the struggle to implement the revolutionary economic strategy presented by the party, it is very important to enhance the militant functions and roles of party organizations at all levels. All party organizations should actively wage organizational and political work to deeply inculcate among party members and the working people, the correctness and significance of the revolutionary economic strategy presented by the party and our party's lofty intent reflected in this so as to lead them to unanimouslty rise up in the struggle to implement the strategy.

We have all conditions and possibilities to implement the revolutionary economic strategy presented by the party. We should effect a new upsurge in socialist economic construction with infinite loyalty to the party and the leader [suryong] and firm faith in victory and thus, should demonstrate the superiority and vitality of socialism of our own style.

Upholding Militant Slogan Stressed

SK2812101893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Unattributed talk: "Highly Displaying the Revolutionary Spirit of Self-Reliance Is Important Demand for Thoroughly Implementing Our Party's Revolutionary Strategy"]

[Text] Based on a profound analysis of the real demands on our country's socialist construction, the 21st Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee put forward a strategic policy designating the next two or three years as the readjustment period for socialist economic construction in which we are to advance toward an agriculture-, light industry-, and trade-first policy.

This policy reflects our party's lofty intention to achieve in the near future, our people's long-cherished desire to eat rice food with meat soup, to wear silk clothes and to live under a tile-roofed house and to further glorify the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style.

Today, all party members and working people are rising in the struggle as one to carry to accomplishment the decisions of the plenary meeting by upholding the party's militant slogan and overflowing with new confidence and with the spirit of struggle.

We are faced with a task to further strengthen the might of our-style socialism by thoroughly implementing our party's economic strategy while consolidating the achievements attained during the period of implementing the third 7-year plan and to more highly display the superiority of our-style socialism. For all the party members and working people to successfully implement this task, it is important to highly display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle by upholding the militant slogans of the party and the leader [suryong].

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: Just as we advanced forward in the past by upholding the revolutionary slogan of self-reliance and arduous struggle, we should uphold this slogan in the future and should frustrate anti-socialist maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries. Thus, we should carry the socialist cause to accomplishment.

Self-reliance and arduous struggle are unswerving revolutionary positions in accomplishing revolution and construction with one's own strength, and are the indomitable spirit of struggle to defend the revolutionary banner without yielding to any difficulty or trial.

The road of displaying dignity and honor of the country and state is found in achieving self-reliance and the road of building a most solid and vigorous socialism is in achieving self-reliance.

The high display of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle by our people today is an important demand for carrying the party's revolutionary economic strategy to accomplishment.

The plenary meeting stressed expanded investments in agriculture, light industry, and external trade domains by the state in compliance with the strategic policy put forward by the party. The meeting also stressed vigorous acceleration in the development of these domains and the strengthening of self-reliance and might of our economy.

We should accomplish the rural technological revolution and carry out farming work in a scientific and technical manner in accordance with the demand of the chuche agricultural method. Thus, we should enhance all domains of agricultural products to a higher stage. By accelerating the light industry revolution, we should drastically increase the production of various kinds of textile products, daily necessities, and processed foodstuffs. We should expand the kinds of consumer goods and should decisively upgrade their quality.

We should firmly organize the production bases for export commodities in all domains of national economy and should effect a new turn in development of external trade by actively pioneering external markets.

Tasks for accomplishment of the party's revolutionary economic strategy are indeed gigantic. The only way to successfully implementing these heavy tasks is to display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle more highly.

We should struggle to the end with revolutionary passion to carry out the struggle to implement our party's revolutionary economic strategy with our own strength, technology, and natural resources. Only thus, can we successfully accelerate socialist construction.

Moreover, highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle by all people is a firm guarantee for frustrating challenges of the imperialists and reactionaries and for fully displaying the might of our style of socialism by thoroughly implementing our party's revolutionary economic strategy.

Our style of socialism is a chuche-oriented socialism which was built by our people's own strength under the wise leadership of the party and the leader.

No matter how difficult the conditions we were in were, we solved many problems raised in socialist construction from the chuche standpoint and with our own strength.

Only when we continuously maintain such a spirit of struggle, can we resolutely smash various challenges and disturbance maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries and defend and protect our style of socialism. Thus, we can firmly defend the dignity and honor of the fatherland.

Today what is important in effecting a new revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction under the revolutionary banner of self-reliance and arduous struggle is for all party members and working people to tenaciously fight with the spirit of adding the speed of the nineties to Chollima.

The internal and external circumstances of our revolution were indeed difficult during the postwar days. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique frantically waged maneuvers of northward invasion, and international revisionists and factional flunkeyists [chongpa sadaejuija]—their followers—viciously challenged the party.

We had to accelerate basic socialist construction then, on empty land where everything had been destroyed and only ashes remained, by crushing various maneuvers of the enemies at home and abroad.

However, our people courageously broke through difficulties with the firm conviction that we can attain self-reliance as long as there is the wise leadership of the party and the leader and as long as there are territories and revolutionary gains that we safeguarded with blood.

If we did not have the unswerving will to attain self-reliance by only trusting the party and the indomitable spirit of struggle, the history of the great Chollima march, which gained the admiration of the people of the world, would not have been created.

When everything was short and difficult, the Kangson working class produced 100,000-tonnes of steel billet from the blooming mill with only 60,000-ton capacity, and manufactured modern mechanical facilities with its own strength by overcoming all difficulties. With such tenacious Chollima spirit and militant spirit as cherished by the Kangson working class, all the party members and working people should repeatedly advance and struggle.

"Let us effect a great upsurge in economic construction with the spirit of adding the speed of the nineties to Chollima!" This is our party's call today and our people's slogan for struggle.

For all the people to live and struggle with the spirit of self-reliance—the Chollima spirit—it is important to have firm determination and resolution to defend and glorify the banner of socialism to the end with our own strength and by trusting our own strength.

Our people's will to cultivate the socialist ideal on this land with our own strength, wisdom and resources has not changed today nor will it change in the future.

All the party members and workers should more firmly adhere to the thoroughgoing position to carry to accomplishment the chuche socialist cause, which was pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and is being led by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, in our own way. Thus, they should tenaciously struggle with a sense of confidence.

We should regard as most just the revolutionary lines and policies consistently maintained by our party and our party's revolutionary economic strategy. We should always think and act in our own way at any place.

Regarding the decisions and directives of the party as the ultimate demand of the revolution, we should boldly smash various passiveness, conservatism and technological mysticism. Just as in the postwar days when we created amazing miracles one after another, we should unconditionally implement the economic tasks assigned by the party with persistent revolutionary spirit.

All party members and working people should highly display the revolutionary spirit to fulfill national economic plans assigned to their domains and their units without fail by manufacturing what is not available and by discovering what is short.

By cherishing the ardent patriotism to endlessly treasure and save our resources and assets, all the party members and working people should develop the economy by depending on their own raw materials and fuel and should make persistent efforts to implement the gigantic economic tasks with our own technology, materials and facilities.

We should fully mobilize our abundance of production potential in implementing the party's agriculture-, light industry-, and trade- first policy.

In particular, commanding members of the revolution should lead the people at their van so that they courageously advance with a strong will for self-reliance.

All guiding functionaries should always reflect just as we did in the postwar days when we first conducted shoveling work on the empty land, and should voluntarily join in difficult works. Thus, they should fulfill the honorable missions and duties as the revolutionary fighters in the struggle to implement our party's revolutionary economic strategy.

Our people's determination to carry to accomplishment the socialist cause with our own strength by following the party's leadership is firm and the future of our revolution is bright.

All the party members and working people should thoroughly implement our party's revolutionary economic strategy with the tenacious revolutionary spirit of self-reliance by upholding the leadership of the party and the leader. Thus, we should further glorify the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style.

Over 800 Km of Railway Lines Said Electrified

SK2312065193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0404 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—More than 800 kilometres of railway lines have been switched over to electric traction during the period of the third seven-year plan (1987-1993) in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, bringing the electrification of trunk lines close to completion.

The proportion of traction by electric locomotives in railway freight transport is above 90 percent.

With the trunk lines electrified in the main, the traffic and transport capacity of the railways have grown still further and it has become possible to satisfactorily meet the increasing demand of the national economy for transport.

The government defined the railways as the country's arteries and pilot of the national economy from the early days of the building of a new Korea after the liberation and has directed big efforts to the construction of new lines and railway electrification.

The electrification of railways which began with the switchover to electric haulage on the Yangdok-Chonson and Kaego-Koin lines in 1948 entered a full-dress stage from the latter half of the 1950s after the ceasefire.

In those days railway sections with a steep gradient and limited traffic capacity on the Sinsongchon-Kowon and Kilju-Myongchon lines were switched over to electric traction and trunk lines extending 850 km including Pyongyang-Chongjin and Pyongyang-Sinuiju lines were electrified in the 60s, the first seven-year plan period.

380 km were switched over to electric traction in the six-year plan (1971-1976) and 1,500 km in the second seven-year plan (1978- 1984). In this period the proportion of traction by electric locomotives jumped from 67 to 88.3 percent.

This year, the state allotted a fund 3.1 percent up on last year to the development of railway transport, thus completing the electrification of many sections including the Hyesan-Manpo youth line and the Pyongsan-Kaesong and Yonggwang-Sasu lines.

Strict Observance of Socialist Constitution Urged

SK2712043693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 27 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today calls on the party members and other working people to more strictly observe the socialist Constitution of chuche in an editorial dedicated to the 21st Socialist Constitution Day.

The editorial says:

The promulgation of "socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song 21 years ago was a historical event of epochal significance in our people's political life and in the struggle to advance and accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche.

With the institution of the superior socialist Constitution of new type, an encyclopedia of revolution and construction, a legal guarantee was provided to resolutely defend our-style socialism, the life and soul of our people, and our people came to possess a mighty weapon for carrying the revolutionary cause to the completion under the banner of the chuche idea in any storm and stress.

A great turn has been effected in all fields of state and social life over the last 21 years since the socialist Constitution emerged. With the application of the socialist Constitution under the leadership of the party, a revolutionary system and order have been thoroughly established in the whole society and the political, economic and military might of the country has grown incomparably through the vigorous promotion of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

To strictly observe the socialist Constitution and other state laws and regulations at present is a very important work to staunchly defend the most superior socialism of our style and an essential demand in fully demonstrating the advantages and might of our-style socialism by vigorously stepping up the revolution and construction.

Today the imperialists and reactionaries are directing the sharp edge of attack to our Republic advancing under the uplifted banner of socialism and are resorting to more vicious schemes than ever before to stifle our-style socialism. Under such situation we must consolidate the political and ideological foundation of our-style socialism as firm as a rock.

All the party members and other working people should cherish great honor and pride in building socialism with the most superior socialist Constitution, invigorate the struggle to carry through the party's policy of establishing a revolutionary law-abiding spirit in the whole society and enhance the function and role of the people's government.

Need To Advance Toward Chollima Spirit Stressed

SK2812044093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 28 (KCNA)—Papers here today editorially stress the need to vigorously advance with the same spirit and mettle as was displayed in the period of the great Chollima upsurge, marking the lapse of 37 years since the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song started the Chollima Movement (December 1956).

An editorial of NODONG SINMUN says that to struggle with the same spirit and mettle displayed in the period of the great Chollima upsurge is an important requirement to accelerate socialist construction and defend the Korean-style socialism.

It goes on:

The great Chollima upsurge was effected in Korea in the postwar period when our revolution was undergoing a difficult trial.

The revolutionary spirit displayed in the period of the great Chollima upsurge is the spirit of loyalty to make the revolution by believing in only the party and the leader, and the spirit of self- reliance and hard struggle to face up to and overcome any difficulty by one's own efforts.

As our people lived and struggled in this spirit, they could make a long drive without any stagnation and stalement in socialist construction, and successfully build and glorify our-style socialism.

The imperialists and reactionaries now are going on the rampage as never before in their bid to threaten and blackmail and put pressure on politically and militarily and blockade economically our country which is advancing under the banner of socialism. Important in smashing the challenges of the imperialists is to unite around the party and the leader in one mind and, to this end, give full play to the spirit of the great Chollima upsurge displayed in the postwar period.

Now, we are making the revolution under favorable conditions; the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses has been firmly cemented and the foundations of the independent economy have been consolidated immensely whereby we can live on our own efforts under the leadership of the party. When we vigorously accelerate our ongoing general march in the spirit and mettle of the postwar period when we rose up, tightening our belt, any challenge of the imperialists will be powerless, and our-style socialism will be firmly defended.

The editorial calls for vigorously advancing in the spirit of the Chollima spurred on by the "speed of the 90s" and effecting a new great upswing in socialist construction through the thoroughgoing implementation of the revolutionary economic strategy of the party.

Agricultural Working People Hold Meeting

SK2412013293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] A national meeting to express a resolution of loyalty by functionaries of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea [UAWPK] was held at the youth's central hall on 20 December. This meeting was to endlessly consummate the socialist cause under the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Relevant functionaries and UAWPK functionaries attended the meeting.

Following a report by Choe Song-suk, chairman of the UAWPK Central Committee; An Kuk-yong, chairman of the Unsong-ri UAWPK in Anju city; Yi Chun-ok, chairman of the UAWPK Songhan cooperative farm in Sinuiju city; and Kim Yong-pong, chairman of the UAWPK Chontae-ri cooperative farm in Yonan county spoke at the meeting.

Reporters and debaters said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song recently elucidated scientifically the importance of the issue of succeeding the leadership in the implementation of the socialist cause, and that he had given sacred teachings to us to uphold the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty in order to consummate the socialist cause, a chuche-revolutionary cause.

They said: The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has both literary and military accomplishments and is loyal and filial and, with his extraordinary faculties of inquiry and with his energetic activity of ideology and theory, he is glorifying the immortal chuche idea as a great guiding line in the era of independence. Also, he has strengthened and developed our party to be a guide for the socialist cause and effected a new revolutionary upsurge in all fields of our country, including political, economic, cultural, and military areas. As a result, he has opened a golden age of national growth and prosperity on this land.

They stressed that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great leader [yongdoja], the ever-victorious, and the iron-willed brilliant commander who strengthened and developed our country into a country of single-hearted unity in which all people are firmly united around the party and the leader and who consolidated and developed our People's Army units into genuine Army units of the party, the revolution, and the people.

They also said that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is the benevolent father of our people who made the whole society into a large harmonious family by conducting a policy of love and trust and by boundlessly loving and taking care of the revolutionary fighters and the people.

They unanimously stressed that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is truly a genuine leader [chidoja] of the people who greatly gained an immortal achievement—which will be famous in history of the fatherland—by leading the socialist cause, a chuche revolutionary cause, to the single road of the brilliant victory, thus personally having the unanimous trust of our people and by meeting the demands of the times.

Reporters and debaters said: The overall duty and task of the UAWPK are to permeate the whole UAWPK with the dear comrade leader's ideology by being single-heatedly loyal and dutiful to him under his leadership.

They stressed that all unionists must be deeply permeated with the greatness of our party and trained as genuine loyalists or devoted filial sons and daughters who absolutely admire the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

They said that the unionists must actively conduct activities to propagate the greatness of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il by mobilizing all propaganda and agitation forces and means, and that they must practically carry out, in various forms and methods, a work to follow and learn the thorough spirit of the revolutionary outlook on the leader and the sacred obligation of peasant heroes, rural revolutionaries, such as Kim Chae-won, Yim Kwon-sang, and grandmother In Tae-song who fulfilled their duties as farmers by cherishing deep in their hearts loyalty for the party and the leader [suryong].

They stressed that all UAWPK functionaries and members must be firmly prepared to be true loyalists, people who make sincere efforts and devote themselves to thoroughly implement the party's lines and policies, saying that the unionists must establish a revolutionary spirit to unconditionally and thoroughly implement them by regarding them as just.

They said that it is an important task of the UAWPK to actively accelerate the implementation of rural thesis, and that the unionists must actively contribute to realizing our people's desire that all people can eat rice with meat soup and live in the tile-roofed houses wearing silk clothes by constantly increasing the agricultural production under a policy of "Agriculture is the first" presented at the 21st plenary session of the Sixth Central Committee of the party.

They stressed that UAWPK functionaries must quickly finish this year's farming and hasten next year's farming preparation, and that as a result, they must contribute to obtain a good harvest once again next year, a year marking the 30th anniversary of publication of the rural thesis.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader of our party and people, was adopted at the meeting.

South Korea

President Kim Discusses DPRK Nuclear Capability

SK2812070593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0637 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam said Tuesday "I cannot say that North Korea currently possesses nuclear weapons even though it has a strong desire to develop them."

"We have accurate information on this, and we are not only exchanging accurate information on North Korea's nuclear development program but also consulting with the United States," Kim said.

"And the United States respects our position.

"North Korea tenaciously clings to its intention to possess nuclear weapons in order to keep its regime in power even though having nuclear weapons will lead it to its destruction," Kim said during a year-end get-together with reporters.

Declaring that North Korea was making a wrong judgment, Kim said the nuclear question has to be resolved at any cost because the lives and deaths of 70 million Koreans depend on it.

Although North Korea has not shown any change thus far, signs of change are beginning to show and there will be an important turning point in inter-Korean relations early next year, Kim said.

Kim said 1994 will be an important year, important to the extent that one cannot overemphasize it.

"We are now standing on the threshold of the group of advanced nations, and we have to pass this crucial juncture at any cost in order to win the unrestrained competition in the international arena," Kim said.

The country's exports have turned into the black for the first time in four years thanks to good performance by the automobile, shipbuilding, steel and semiconductor sectors, he said.

Taking this favorable trend, Kim said, he believed that the government will turn the economy around next year. The most important thing for the economy is to achieve labor stability, he said.

The president said that, fortunately, all companies are trying to increase their exports by investing in plant and equipment and improving the welfare of their workers. They will become the main power pulling the country's economy, he said

"We have to use this opportunity to turn our farms for the better in the wake of the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations," Kim said, adding that Chongwadae [presidential office] will become directly involved in solving the nation's farm problems.

Asked about the possibility of restructuring the political circle, Kim said he had no intention of changing the present system.

"Politics must change in accordance with the changing world," Kim said. "The opposition parties will have to change while keeping the national interest in mind."

Commenting on the recent reshuffle of the cabinet and party postholders, Kim said he was able to select new officials after thorough background checks.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on DPRK, Trade Issues

SK2812022993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0222 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—North Korea is standing at a crossroads from where it can move either toward a diplomatic solution of its nuclear problem or toward international sanctions, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu told YONHAP in an interview Monday [27 December].

It is the position of related countries that the nuclear issue should be solved through dialogue, not U.N. sanctions, he told YONHAP.

North Korea, South Korea, the United States, China, Russia and all other countries do not want sanctions against North Korea, he added.

Asked about China's opposition to U.N. sanctions against North Korea, Han said that China probably meant that the issue could be solved without sanctions and it would change its mind if Pyongyang refused to budge despite "our effort to solve it through dialogue."

The most Seoul could give Pyongyang if the nuclear issue were solved would be consent to Washington-Pyongyang rapprochement, as the government announced in 1988 that it does not oppose normal relations between the United States and North Korea.

Commenting on the Green Round world environment talks, Han said the Foreign Ministry would set up a science and environment bureau to prepare for multilateral negotiations.

He said the government would strengthen trade diplomacy and support overseas sales promotions by businesses to cope with the new world trade order being forged in the wake of conclusion of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade treaty.

A course in international trade negotiations will be set up by the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security to produce trade negotiation specialists, he added.

U.S. Envoy on Reports of Confrontation

SK2812063893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0629 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—There is nothing new in a CIA report on North Korea's probable nuclear capability, the American envoy said Tuesday, indicating that Washington has long thought the Stalinist state may already have one or two atomic bombs.

"Nothing new is revealed in the CIA report even if it is correct," Ambassador James Laney told a lunch meeting with the Korean Council on Foreign Relations.

The NEW YORK TIMES recently quoted a classified CIA report to President Bill Clinton as concluding that Pyongyang probably has one or two bombs made from 12kg of its stockpiled plutonium.

He belittled other recent reports in the U.S. media on military confrontation on the Korean peninsula.

"The situation is by no means new," Laney said.

On Monday, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said that there was no indication of covert nuclear activities in North Korea during the past few months of Pyongyang-Washington dialogue.

Officials say that this is one of the reasons South Korea and the United States are still pushing for a diplomatic solution of the nuclear situation.

"The U.S. goal is to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue," Laney said in his lunch speech, titled "U.S.-ROK Relations: A Maturing Partnership."

The last contact with North Korea provided room for hope, the ambassador said, and it was "encouraging enough" to continue the dialogue.

The most effective mechanism for stability and security in Korea is South-North dialogue, and the United States is staying on the sidelines and encouraging Korea to determine its own future.

"I would like to make very clear that the United States does not seek to isolate the North," he said.

Laney admitted to differences on trade matters and market access between Seoul and Washington, and emphasized Clinton's commitment to open markets in the Asia-Pacific region.

The region contains nearly 50 percent of the global gross national product, buys 120 billion U.S. dollars in American exports and provides 2.3 million jobs.

The United States was "committed to preserving and expanding the open markets which... have fostered the dynamism of this region," Laney said.

Results of 22 Dec U.S.-DPRK Contact Studied

SK2612124693

[Editorial Report] Seoul vernacular dailies on 25 December carry editorials commenting on the reportedly rapid progress made in U.S.-DPRK negotiations on the North Korean nuclear issue at the 22 December U.S.-DPRK unofficial contact held in New York.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN on page 3 carries a 900-word editorial entitled "Do Not Make Concessions on the Condition for Resumption of Dialogue." The editorial begins: "The U.S.-North Korean negotiations on the North Korean nuclear inspections seem to be heading in a direction we do not desire. The North Korean-U.S. negotiations, which had made little progress until then, showed signs of settlement through frequent contacts recently. This is a welcome sign. However, it is very regrettable that the negotiations in progress are bypassing us. We regret it because the United States is attempting to drop the resumption of the inter-Korean dialogue from the list of conditions for the settlement of the North's nuclear issue." The editorial then notes: "It seems that the United States has made a timetable between North Korea and the United States, which it would not like to disclose, and is trying to open a breakthrough in persuading North Korea through active concessions because the timetable's deadline is approaching." The editorial then questions: "If the United States accedes to most of the North Korean demands and sacrifices even the precondition for inter-Korean dialogue, what are our gains from the North Korean-U.S. negotiations?" The editorial then adds: "Even if the United States accedes to all of the North Korean demands, North Korea will not permit special inspection of the two undeclared out of the seven nuclear sites. The United States should not fall into this trap set by North Korea."

The conservative CHOSON ILBO on page 3 carries an 800-word editorial entitled "We Should Be Prepared for the Improvement of U.S.-North Korean Relations."

The editorial notes: "North Korea is taking interest in improving relations with the United States but is showing little interest in improving relations with us. In the meantime, the United States is likely to take a positive attitude toward improving relations with North Korea if the United States thinks this will enable it to secure clearer transparency of the North Korean nuclear sites. Under such circumstances, the government will come up against the difficult question of whether to simultaneously dissolve or to dissolve with a time interval the gap between the improvement of U.S.-North Korean relations and that of inter-Korean relations. Another task the government will encounter is that if the government wants to resolve the issue of improving inter-Korean relations linking it with the issue of improving U.S.-North Korean relations, it will have to come up with a new policy concept different from the existing international cooperation system. Even if North Korea wishes to improve its relations separately with the United States and with the ROK, it has to improve its relations with the ROK for real improvement of its relations with the United States. North Korea should be made aware of this and efforts ought to be made so that North Korea may become a responsible member in the order of Northeast Asia. For this, a three dimensional international approach should be made to induce the internationalization of North Korea."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO on page 3 carries a 900-word editorial entitled "Inter-Korean Mutual Inspection Should Be Realized Without Fail." The editorial stresses that the resolving of the North Korean nuclear issue should be done in such a way as "to confirm clearly through complete inspections and verifications that the North Korean nuclear development is not for military purposes." The editorial notes: "There is no guarantee, even if North Korea agrees to overall inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, that North Korea will faithfully permit inspections in view of its habitual practice of dodging and attaching conditions to date. Therefore, it is necessary that inter-Korean mutual inspections be made along with the inspections by the IAEA to ensure complete verification of the North Korean nuclear transparency." The editorial then concludes: "The government should not overlook or only view the negotiating process which is heading in a direction different from our position."

The moderate MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN on page 3 carries a 900-word editorial entitled "A Noteworthy New Phase in the Negotiation Over the North Korean Nuclear Issue." The editorial notes: "While the North Korean-U.S. negotiations are reportedly making considerable progress, we must face the reality that not a few aspects in the progress of negotiations, whose outline is being revealed, put us on the alert. After the UN General Assembly resolution, the only alternative for North Korea to take is, in fact, permitting overall nuclear inspection. We should not let North Korea cheat either the United States or us in the long, tiresome negotiations. We should reexamine our security posture at this critical juncture."

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN on page 3 carries a 900-word editorial entitled "Are the North Korean-U.S. Negotiations Making Progress?" The editorial notes, "Even if North Korea accepts the new U.S. proposal, thus passing a critical point, there will be many more critical points to pass before North Korea and the United States agree to the normalization of North Korean-U.S. relations in their third round of high-level talks. Nevertheless, in order to prevent the situation where North Korea rejects the new U.S. proposal, leading the United States to take the North Korean nuclear issue with the UN Security Council, thus resulting in the UN sanctions on North Korea, we hope that North Korea and the United States will succeed in reaching agreement in some way in their working contacts so that the third round of high-level talks will be held as soon possible."

Seoul Holds Talks With Japan on Overseas Koreans

OW2712095093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0929 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 27 KYODO—Japanese and South Korean officials had talks Monday [27 December] on the legal status and treatment of Koreans living in Japan.

Yu Pyong-u, director of the South Korean Foreign Ministry's Asian Division, expressed appreciation for Japan's scrapping of the requirement that Korean residents be fingerprinted, officials said.

They said he asked that Japan follow up by abolishing the present requirement that Korean residents carry their foreign resident registration cards on their person at all times.

Tadashi Ikeda, director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, was quoted as saying it would be difficult to meet that request in full, though some flexibility could be shown by authorities in enforcing the requirement.

The meeting also covered such issues as employment of Koreans in the public sector, voting rights and pensions.

Japanese Justice Ministry figures show there were some 680,000 Koreans living in Japan as of the end of 1992.

Result of Butrus-Ghali's Visit to DPRK Viewed

SK2812054693

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of editorials published in Seoul vernacular daily newspapers on 28 December on the significance of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's recent visit to Pyongyang on the nuclear issue.

The conservative Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean on page 3 carries a 1,000-word editorial entitled "Butrus-Ghali and Dissolution of the UN Command."

Noting the ineffective result of his visit to Pyongyang on the North Korean nuclear issue, the editorial reported: "We hope UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, who has been to the North and South, will pay special attention to future North-South relations, including the nuclear issue, and consider those involved in his approach to the settlement of the issue. Kim Il-song, a North Korean man of absolute power, is decisively important in resolving the nuclear issue. Many figures who have met Kim Il-song said, however, that he was not likely to be well aware of the seriousness of the nuclear issue. Therefore, it is important to inform Kim Il-song of the seriousness of the nuclear issue. This can be effective when he has a heart-to-heart talk with Kim Il-song." Referring to the importance of the UN secretary general's role in the settlement of the nuclear issue and the need for his frequent visits to North Korea to achieve this, the editorial reported: "We paid attention to his remarks that the UN Command will be dissolved if peace is achieved on the Korean peninsula. We expect peace to be achieved on the Korean peninsula so there will not be a need for the UN Command. The UN Forces exist as a last resort to prevent events that run counter to peace from taking place."

The moderate Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean carries on page 3 a 800-word editorial entitled "The Result of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's Visit to North Korea." Referring to North Korea's refusal of UN mediation in the settlement of the nuclear issue, the editorial stressed that "President Kim Il-song clearly said there is no need for the United Nations to mediate the nuclear issue because North Korean-U.S. negotiations are now under way." Noting North Korea's intention to directly hold negotiations with the United States regarding the nuclear issue, the editorial reported: "It is the ROK that is directly threatened by North Korean nuclear development. Nevertheless, North Korea wants to only hold direct talks with the United States with the intention of establishing diplomatic relations." Noting UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's proposal for the replacement of the armistice agreement with a peace treaty in peacetime on the Korean peninsula, the editorial reported: "For a long time, North Korea has been calling on the United States to replace the armistice agreement with a peace treaty, but the North and South have differences as parties to the conclusion of the peace treaty. The North and South must be parties to the conclusion of the peace treaty." The editorial urges North Korea to show a positive attitude toward the international climate for the settlement of the nuclear issue.

The left-leaning Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean on page 3 carries a 1,000-word editorial entitled "The North Korean Nuclear Issue—Can We Get Through This Crisis?" The editorial refers to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's visit to North Korea as an occasion to "get through" the nuclear issue crisis, reporting that "in his meeting with Secretary General Butrus-Ghali on 25 December, North Korean President Kim Il-song assessed that there are positive signs in the ongoing North Korean-U.S. negotiations." The editorial urges South Korea to persuade North Korea to clearly dissolve the suspicion regarding its nuclear development.

Prime Minister Emphasizes Teamwork to Cabinet

SK2312093893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang stressed yesterday [22 December] that the members of his Cabinet should unite to step up the national capacity to cope with various problems, particularly winning in the increasingly competitive international situation in economic terms.

"The foundation of a government must be secured at its early stage. In this connection, we, the newly-formed Cabinet, desperately need team work in the coming one to two years," said Yi.

"During this period, I think, it will be decided whether we can live up to the public expectation that the current Cabinet should form a reliable administration and create good politics in the interests of people," Yi continued.

He made the remarks at his first meeting with members of the Cabinet which was formed Tuesday [21 December] in the biggest shakeup since the inauguration of the Kim Yong-sam government. Fourteen out of twenty four ministers were replaced.

Prime Minister Yi said, "We should become Cabinet members who take pride in each item of our work."

Yi also put emphasis on change in ways of thinking and urged Cabinet members to put themselves in the people's shoes.

"When we think about elimination of irrational administrative regulations, bureaucratic ways of thinking have clear limitations," Yi said.

He instructed all participants to reconsider each ministry's actions in connection with the elimination of bureaucratic redtape from the viewpoint of the people not from the position of the administration.

As to mapping out government measures against undesirable side- effects of the Uruguay Round international trade rules, Yi called for a thorough review.

"I want you to think over and over about this issue so that those who will be affected by the new trade rules, especially farmers, may be able to understand government measures," Yi said.

About labor issues the government regards as an obstacle to promoting nation's international competitiveness, Yi said that this is not a problem of a specific ministry but one the whole Cabinet should cope with one mind.

French Arms Dealer 'Laundered' Large Amounts

SK2412044393 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] The French arms dealer Jean-Rene Fuan, the central figure in the $6.7 million arms deal fraud, has laundered $133,000 and remitted it to Korean arms broker Chu Kwang-yong from Paris, according to the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office yesterday.

Prosecutors said they were chasing Chu's bank accounts, which they said may provide an important clue to the suspicions of conspiracy between Fuan, Chu and some third persons.

Chu slipped out of the country Dec. 15 shortly after the Korean news media first reported the fraud case involving the Defense Logistics Agency.

Prosecution sources said that Fuan remitted $305,000 to Chu between 1989 and 1992 of that sum $183,000 was sent to Chu after May 1991, when Fuan withdrew $1.79 million from the Paris branch of a Korean bank with a forged bill of lading for 90mm artillery shells. Fuan withdrew about $4.9 million more on two occasions last December for U.S.-made 105mm and 155mm artillery shells.

The $133,000 might have been a "dividend" for the fraud or a commission, the sources said.

The sources also said they were not ruling out the possibility of the main culprit hiding behind Fuan, adding the two alone could not have cheated the logistics agency.

Prosecutors said Fuan and Chu had appeared together at the Paris bank branch to withdraw the money.

Investigation continued to find out whether there were accomplices within the logistics agency, prosecutors said.

Meanwhile, the military prosecution, also investigating the $6.7 million arms deal swindle, is chasing Chu who is now believed to be in the United States.

South Korean military attaches in America are asking for cooperation from the U.S. authorities to repatriate Chu, said military prosecution officials.

The military prosecutors arrested former Navy Capt. To Chong-il, who had served in the logistics agency, on charges of negligence of duty. In May 1991, To overlooked defects in the bill of lading issued by Fuan and let the Commercial Bank of Korea pay $1.79 million to Fuan for 90mm artillery shells which were never shipped, said military prosecutors.

The military prosecutors also arrested Hong Kol-hui, another former logistics agency official, for bribery. Military authorities said Hong had taken 37 million won in bribes from six arms brokers between April 1989 and the end of 1990, but said the bribes were not connected with the arms deal fraud.

The arms trading companies EFICO and FEC, so far known to be deeply connected with Fuan, are not French firms, the French Embassy in Seoul said yesterday.

"As far as we know, there are no such arms trading firms in France," said a spokeswoman of the French Embassy. The two firms are from Britain and Liechtenstein, according to the Embassy.

The spokeswoman noted that the three kinds of artillery rounds South Korean Defense Logistics Agency was trying to procure through Fuan and other arms brokers were not French products.

"In France, the regulation for trading of war equipment is very strict," said the spokeswoman. "Either companies or individuals must obtain authorization for manufacturing and trading as well as preliminary agreements for exportation."

Arms Fraud Case, 'Special Project' Viewed

SK2612000493 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 25 Dec 93 p 5

[Excerpts] A new controversy is developing amid the swelling aftereffect of the gun shell import swindle case. It is claimed that the case is, or at least is closely related to, a disguised deal for a "special project." [passage omitted]

According to arms agents, there are numerous disguised deals to obtain weapons secretly, and fraud can easily be involved in the trading process.

It is sometimes necessary to purchase arms without the knowledge of not only enemies but also allies, and such extremely confidential and disguised measures are used in the trading process.

Yim Pok-chin, lawmaker of the Democratic Liberal Party, said on 24 December at the Defense Committee of the National Assembly that the case was related to a special project which required disguised imports, and presented two possibilities.

First, he speculated that it was a disguised deal pointing out at a military official's testimony that it was a special force, which did not need any gun shells, that made the first requirement request. [passage omitted]

Lawmaker Yim also raised the possibility that the case was an operation to provide wealth for a certain person.

According to Yim, Chu [Kwang-yong], president of Kwangjin Trading Co. involved in the fraud; Min Kyong-on, president of Naewae Trading Co.; and Steve Yim, Min's brother-in-law; were all involved in the "Tongpaek project," a business that purchased arms from communist countries. They lost a considerable amount of money in past business transactions and the exposed deal was a way for the sixth Republic to compensate them, according to Yim's speculation. [passage omitted]

Upon the government's request, Chu once imported Russian T-72 tanks under a disguised deal. [passage omitted]

The National Defense Ministry said the gun shell import was not a disguised deal for any special project. The ministry is not checking if a separate special project was underway through Chu and Fuan, either. [passage omitted]

According to arms agents, when the French-made Exocet missiles were imported in the past, a false bill of lading was issued to conceal the deal from the United States, and the missiles were transported in the cargo compartment of a Korean Air plane.

Na Pyong-son, lawmaker of the Democratic Party, and former vice chairman of the Korea Defense Industry Association, said "Secret arms dealers organizations are located in Hong Kong and Europe. Sometimes weapons supplied by guerrilla forces in the Middle East, including 'Arafat and Libya, are available. Deals are always made under strict confidentiality." He pointed out that there is always the risk of fraud in such secret arms deals. [passage omitted]

The banks also take it as a usual practice not to be choosy about Defense Logistic Agency's transaction documents because they know there are many disguised purchases in the National Defense Ministry's arms purchase programs. [passage omitted]

The Paris branch of the Korea Exchange Bank also insists that it made the payment according to the instruction given by the Defense Logistics Agency without checking the irregularities in the documents because of such practices. [passage omitted]

Kim Yong-sam's Ruling Party Reforms Analyzed

SK2412042993 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Dec 93 pp 2, 9

[By staff reporter Sin Yong-pae]

[Text] President Kim Yong-sam illustrated his determination to continue reforming the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) in yesterday's replacement of key post-holders of the party.

Most noteworthy in the shake-up is the selection of Rep. Mun Chong-su as party secretary-general.

Mun, a little-known politician, belongs to the reformative Minju faction in the DLP led by President Kim. Kim concurrently heads the party as party president.

Mun's predecessors since Kim took office in February—Choe Hyong-u and Hwang Myong-su—are also from the Minju faction.

"President Kim appears to be resuming effort to conduct party renovation measures which have been stagnant since Hwang assumed the post," a political analyst said.

The selection of Mun may be part of President Kim's effort to have members of his "royal family" come to the fore in the ruling camp as shown in a recent series of reshuffles of cabinet ministers and presidential secretaries.

Former Secretary-General Choe was appointed to head the Home Affairs Ministry and Kim U-sok and Rep. So Chong-won became construction minister and first state minister for political affairs, respectively.

In addition, Yi Won-chong, vice information minister, was picked as senior presidential secretary for political affairs.

Another significant feature in the DLP shake-up is that President Kim tried to achieve unity among intraparty factions.

Kim sought to ease growing in-house factional conflict by selecting two senior lawmakers from his rival conservative faction, formerly led by ex-President No Tae-u, as key party post-holders.

New floor leader Yi Han-tong and chief policy-maker Yi Se-ki belong to the majority Minjong faction which was favored during the previous military-backed government.

When the unswerving reform hit political circles hard in the first half of this year, some leading politicians of the Minjong faction became the target of public criticism for their ill-gotten wealth and were forced to quit.

Many members of the faction have been displeased with the walkovers by reform-minded lawmakers loyal to Kim.

"The selection of the two Yis is an apparent political consideration to soothe the mounting grudges among the Minjong faction members," a critic said.

In particular, the appointment of political heavyweight Yi Han-tong as floor leader is regarded by many party officials as surprising.

That is because Yi, who leads a small group within the Minjong faction, had not been expected to be named majority leader, given that he is one of the politicians who stood against Kim during the party's presidential nomination race last year.

Many party lawmakers are of the view that Kim picked Yi, reputed to be a man of action, in the hope that he could take the political initiative in negotiations with opposition parties.

It is not certain whether the realignment of key party posts will be conducive to achieving party unity that has been stressed by the President. But it is apparent that another leadership change including the party chairmanship, the No. 2 post after President Kim, will come at the party's national convention next April or May in which new party leaders will be selected.

Han Wan-sang's Firing Analyzed

SK2412082693 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Dec 93 pp 2, 4

[Text] The blitzkrieg replacement of Deputy Prime Minister and Unification Minister Han Wan-sang with Yi Yong-tok may herald a change in the Kim Young-sam government's policy on North Korea from progressive to conservative.

The replacement of Han was quite unexpected as Tuesday's sweeping cabinet reshuffle was aimed at pursuing "full-fledged reforms" and sharpening the "international competitive edge" for the era of globalization.

A former dissident activist, Han Wan-sang has frequently irked conservatives within the government and the National Assembly, who criticized his "overly" benign view of Pyongyang as weak-kneed. Political analysts said he was probably sacked in the new cabinet lineup to balance the approach.

Analysts suspect that President Kim Young-sam came to see Han as the wrong person to deal with North Korea at this critical time when there is a possibility that the international community will take sanctions against North Korea for its refusal to allow outside inspection of seven nuclear sites, including the two most suspected sites in Yongbyon, North of Pyongyang.

In fact, Kim's government has been split over the thorny North Korean nuclear issue during the past 10 months. In November, Kim went so far as to appoint a "nuclear ambassador" partly to resolve conflicts between defense and security-agency hawks on one hand and the doves on the other. Former Unification Minister Han was, until recently, criticized by hawks as a "sentimental unification proponent."

Some U.S. officials even complain that squabbling in Seoul is making it difficult to coordinate policies related to the North Korean nuclear problem, according to South Korean officials on condition of anonymity.

Han had been one of President Kim's confidants since Kim was an opposition leader, so his expulsion from the cabinet signals a change in Kim's North Korea policy from progressive to conservative, the analysts noted.

While Han is progressive, his successor, Yi Yong-tok, can be regarded as conservative and realistic, the analysts say. His background well illustrates his disposition in relation to the Communist nation, which provoked the 1950-53 Korean War.

A native of Kangsu, South Pyongan Province, now in North Korea, Yi was separated from his family after the internecine war.

As vice president of the Korean National Red Cross in 1984 and chief delegate to inter-Korean Red Cross talks in 1985, he tried hard to expand the inter-Korean exchange programs.

In negotiations with North Korea in 1985, Yi became famous for his firm maintenance to the South's positions to the end.

Analysts agree that the 68-year-old Lee will not reverse Han's policies downright, however.

Judging from his remarks at the press conference held Tuesday, Lee is not much different from his predecessor on seeking coexistence and co-prosperity of South and North Korea through expanded exchanges.

"A change of ministers does not mean a change of policies in a short period. I will work actively based on existing unification policies, Yi told reporters.

Nevertheless, his means of dealing with North Korea will be somewhat different from his predecessor's.

A sociology professor, Han is said to have had troubles with the existing bureaucratic circles due to his inability to handle administrative work.

"Yi will do a fine job coordinating the views of the National Unification Board, Foreign Ministry and the Agency for National Security Planning on inter-Korean issues as deputy prime minister because of his broad experience in management and negotiation," government officials said.

Until recently, Lee had successfully fulfilled his responsibility as chairman of the Administration Ethics Committee, which checked personal assets registered by high-level government officials for three months starting early September.

But some critics cast doubt on his ability to be the man in charge of national unification affairs. Lee is not so much an expert on North Korea as an well-known pedagogy scholar.

When Yi's lack of experience in the field is taken into consideration, the NUB may mainly deal with commodities and personnel exchanges between South and North Korea under Lee's leadership, handing over the reins of inter-Korean 'affairs to the Foreign Ministry and other security agencies, political observers predict.

At the same time, the presidential office of Chongwadae [presidential offices] will likely strengthen its direct rule over inter-Korean issues next year, they said.

Newspaper Profiles New DLP Officials

SK2412094393 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] Mun Chong-su

Secretary-general

Rep. Mun Chong-su, named new DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] secretary-general, is a three-term lawmaker who belongs to the party's core group.

Mun, 54, who is known to maintain a good personal relationship within the party, entered politics in 1967 as a secretary to Kim Yong-sam, then leader of the now-defunct opposition New Democratic Party (NDP).

In 1985, Mun was first elected as lawmaker from a Pusan district and served the NDP as deputy secretary-general.

One of major tasks facing him is to harmonize relations among members of three different factions in the party before elections for heads of local governments are held early in 1995, party officials say.

A Pusan native, Mun graduated from Korea University in 1964. He has one son and one daughter.

Yi Han-tong

Floor leader

Rep. Yi Han-tong is known as a man of varied experiences.

A native of Pochon, Kyonggi Province, Yi jointed the judiciary in 1958 after graduating from Seoul National University with a degree in law.

Yi, 59, started as a judge at the Seoul District Civil Court, later to become a state prosecutor in 1974.

After eight years of serving at the Taejon, Pusan and Seoul district prosecutions, he changed his path in life once again.

In 1981, Yi was first elected to the National Assembly from his hometown constituency on the ticket of the then ruling Democratic Justice Party.

Yi, who has since been elected three more times in the same district, has held various key posts in the ruling party.

The four-term lawmaker had served as party secretary-general in 1984 and twice served as floor leader in 1986 and 1989.

During his days as secretary-general, Yi was given the nickname "Chopper" for handling party affairs in a "clearcut and frank" manner.

Yi Se-ki

Chief policy-maker

Rep. Yi Se-ki, who has twice served as cabinet minister, is also well known as a theoretical expert on Korean politics.

Born in 1936 near Kaesong, now in North Korea, Yi graduated from Korea University with a degree in politics in 1961.

While in college, Yi headed a student council and, after graduation, briefly worked at the Korean national commission of UNESCO.

On obtaining a doctorate in politics in 1979, Yi became a professor at his alma mater.

Yi, a longstanding acquaintance of former President Chon Tu-hwan, decided to enter the political world in 1981, when he became an inaugural member of the ruling Democratic Justice Party.

He was elected to the National Assembly for two consecutive terms in 1981 and 1985, respectively, from a Seoul constituency.

In 1985, he became minister of the national Unification Board while serving as the ruling party floor leader.

Han Sun-pong

Spokesman

New DLP Spokesman Ha Sun-pong used to be a household name in the late 1970s and early 1980s when he anchored the MBC [Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation] evening news.

Thanks partly to his wide reputation and popularity, Ha was first elected to the National Assembly on the now-defunct Democratic Justice Party's national representation ticket in 1981.

A native of Chinyang, South Kyongsang Province, Ha, 52, graduated from Seoul National University with a degree in German language in 1964.

After a brief teaching stint at a high school in his hometown, he started as a reporter at MBC in 1968.

Ha also served as chief secretary to the prime minister in 1984.

He ran for the Assembly in his hometown constituency in 1987 but failed to be elected.

Reshuffle of Presidential Secretaries Viewed

SK2412101793 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 23 Dec 93 p 3

[Article by reporter Song Yong-on: "Background of the Reshuffle of Senior Presidential Secretaries"]

[Excerpts] Following his reshuffle of the cabinet, President Kim Yong-sam reshuffled senior presidential secretaries on 22 December. [passage omitted]

Noteworthy in the reshuffle were the appointment of Vice Information Minister Yi Won-chong as senior presidential secretary for political affairs and the retention of Pak Chae-yun, senior secretary for economic affairs. Just like Presdient Kim's appointment of lawmaker Choe Hyong-u as home minister, Vice Minister Yi's appointment is considered to be a step to further strengthen the president's grip on power. Senior Secretary Yi had been in charge of public relations before Kim Yong-sam became president. He has been working close to Kim Yong-sam since the seventies and has many acquaintances among the ruling and opposition lawmakers and journalists. [passage omitted]

Since the ROK decided to open its rice markets, many people constantly demanded that Pak Chae-yun, senior secretary for economic affairs, take responsibility for the failure to defend the market. However, his retention was reportedly intended to show that the "new economy" policy has not changed. Despite the replacement of some senior secretaries, the basic structure of the presidential secretariat can be said to have been maintained. This is because Presidential Chief of Staff Pak Kwan-yong; Pak Chae-yun, senior secretary for economic affairs; Kim Yong-su, senior secretary for petitions and information; Chong Chong-uk, senior secretary for foreign and national security affairs; and Kim Chong-nam, senior secretary for educational and cultural affairs have all been retained.

However, the restructuring of the secretariat will soon follow the appointment of new senior secretaries. [passage omitted]

Significance of NUB Minister Reshuffle Viewed

SK2412135293

[Editorial Report] Seoul vernacular daily newspapers on 23 December carry articles on the background and significance of the replacement of the minister of the National Unification Board [NUB], who is also deputy prime minister, carried out in a recent large-scale reshuffle of ROK cabinet members by President Kim Yong-sam.

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 4 a 2,500-word article by reporter Yu Sung-u entitled "Background and Significance of the Reshuffle of the Deputy Prime Minister for Reunification Affairs." Noting the "commander" of reunification policies was changed from a sociology scholar from opposition circles to an education scholar whose hometown is in North Korea, the article points to observations that the reshuffle means that the Kim Yong-sam government's northward policy will turn to "relative conservatism" from "relative progressivism." The article also refers to remarks by an expert in North Korean affairs that the appointment of a conservative deputy prime minister will be "an occasion for widening the scope of choice of policies and steps," noting that new Deputy Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok is quite opposite to Former Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang in many ways. The article observes that Yi's appointment can be interpreted as an expression of "the will to gain substantive fruition" in North-South relations without "metaphysical arguments" about reunification policies.

Commenting that although Former Unification Minister Han "won victory in logical disputes," he failed to gain "visible fruition" in the policy toward North Korea, the article points out that while Han was in office, a "strange phenomenon" in which progressive logic was defensive while conservative logic kept an offensive position despite of his progressiveness. The article views that with the lauching of the Yi Yong-tok system, formulation of policies on the North will be led by the Foreign Ministry and the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] while the NUB will be posed to mainly handle the adjustment work and traffic control. The article pays attention to capabilities of the new deputy prime minister in handling reunification affairs based on the consensus of the people.

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 4 a 2,000-word article by reporter Ku Pon-yong entitled

"Unification Deputy Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok Will Handle Policies on North Korea Based on 'Realities.'" Predicting considerable changes in the direction of the policies on North Korea with the recent reshuffle of the unification-affairs deputy prime minister, the article observes that such changes will appear more clearly in the "method of approach" to the North, recalling former minister Han Wan-sang's "appeasement policy" toward North Korea, and that new minister Yi Yong-tok maintained the position of keeping the principle in his negotiation posture in the past.

The article notes that with the replacement of Minister Han, confusion in implementing the policies on reunification and security will be removed and that the dismissal of Minister Han can be interpreted as the will of President Kim Yong-sam to "halt unnecessary disputes" between "progressivism and conservatism." The article observes that the government will now maintain a "resolute and principled posture" in handling pending problems between the North and the South, including the North Korean nuclear issue, instead of "lukewarm and ambiguous appeasement measures." In other words, the government will likely look straight at the "grim realities" instead of attempting to make an "idealistic approach" in the course of implementing the reunification policies.

Describing the new minister Yi Yong-tok as "the senior person" in the unification and security affairs team, the article observes that the Foreign Ministry will undertake the nuclear issue and the NUB will handle "pure unification issues," such as citizen and materials exchanges, and thus the role of each office will be clearly shared. The article points to observation that with Yi's inauguration, the "channel of North-South dialogue," which has been linked with the North Korean nuclear issue, will likely be diversified and other types of talks will be sought, which would be different from high-level talks or from the "exchange of special envoys" which assumes discussion of the nuclear issue as a precondition. In view of his working experiences in North-South dialogue including Red Cross talks to which he was senior delegate and of his hometown being in North Korea, Minister Yi Yong-tok will likely take the offensive and propose the exchange of citizens, including the reunion of separated families to which North Korea showed passive reaction.

South Koreans Living in Exile Viewed

SK2412040893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 24 Dec 93

[By Cho Se-hyon]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—As 1993 draws to a close, a score of people can't come home.

So powerful during the administrations of Army generals that there were few things they couldn't do in this country, they fled their homes for indefinite stays overseas as they sensed the long arm of the law closing in on them for investigation of corruption following the inauguration of civilian President Kim Yong-sam.

Some sneaked out of the country on their own accord, like thieves in the night, while others were tipped off by friends to pack up and leave in a hurry.

The reasons they gave for their sojourns varied. Some said they wanted to do some research at one of those fancy foreign think tanks and others needed medical care, as though there were no hospitals at home good enough for their particular malady.

Whatever the reason, the prosecution says there are about 10 people who are not coming home for the new year.

Conspicuous by their absence are former Finance Minister Yi Yong-man, former representative Yi Won-cho, former Presidential Secretary for Foreign and National Security Affairs Kim Chong-wi, and former ruling Democratic Liberal Party Co-chairman Pak Tae-chun, among others.

Yi Yong-man left the country even before the winds of reform started blowing, on March 30, to do some research and study in the United States. It was more than a month before it was revealed that he had received 500 million won from the president of Tong Hwa Bank, An Yong-mo.

Yi Won-cho, who had also been under suspicion of receiving bribes from An, bolted the country on May 18 allegedly under the guise of being a researcher.

Both Yi and Yi were said to have contributed greatly to campaign efforts for Kim Yong-sam during last year's presidential election. As a result, there have been persistent rumors that maybe they were let go.

Despite the rumors, however, the prosecution wound up its investigation of both men, arousing further suspicion. Their cases sharply contrasted with that of former Representative Kim Chong-in, who was arrested under a similar suspicion.

Yi Won-cho, once dubbed the emperor of the financial world, is said to be living in Japan.

Another man who is staying in Japan is Pak Tae-chun, a former honorary chairman of Pohang Iron and Steel Company (POSCO).

Pak left the country on March 10 with his wife. He is now living in a rest and recreation facility of Japan's Seibu Business Group on the outskirts of Tokyo.

Pak is under suspicion of having received 3.9 billion won in bribes from POSCO-affiliated companies.

He was said to have many influential Japanese friends, but the political situation in Japan has also undergone changes and most of his friends have now disappeared from the seats of power.

The Paks are living in a 13-pyong apartment and Pak is in ill-health. His wife is said to come here once in a while in order to raise money for their living expenses.

Kim Chong-wi, who was the main engine that pulled president No Tae-u's much touted Northern policy, left the country for the United States three days before the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) began an investigation of the Yulgok military buildup program.

Kim is under suspicion of receiving 130 million won from a Daewoo Company and a trade intermediary in connection with the purchase of the next mainstay fighter aircraft.

He did not return home even when his mother died recently.

Rep. Chong Tong-ho of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party went, incognito, aboard an airliner bound for Bangkok on April 19 as soon as the prosecution started looking into his personal assets on suspicion of real estate speculation.

Chong is said to be staying in Taiwan.

There are several others, perhaps less well known but who nevertheless managed to make some noise in their time. They include Han Yong-cha, who is suspected of giving 200 million won in bribes to former Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku. She is living in the United States.

When will they all come home?

Most prosecutors expect that they will not come back before the statute of limitation expires.

But some of them may be able to return if the "political climate" changes in their favor before then.

Military Reforms Viewed With New Minister

SK2412011093 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 23 Dec 93 p 5

[By Yi Chung-chae]

[Text] The military has undergone reform since the civilian government was inaugurated. How will the military reform develop? People inside and outside the military have growing interest on this subject after the replacement of the defense minister. There is a general consensus that the momentum of the military reform will be accelerated with the replacement of the minister. This is because the reform is a decision made by President Kim and the political power rather than the reflection of the will of the defense minister or the military itself. The observation is also grounded on the analysis that former Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae was dismissed because of the irregularities involving the Yulgok project and the recently-revealed scandal involving the Defense Logistics Center.

In his inauguration speech, new Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae stressed, "We have to make true reforms after driving out inefficiency, irregularities, inability, corruption, and the pursuit of one's own interests." He also showed a clear direction for the reform by saying, "I will constantly and substantially push ahead with the reform because the Defense Ministry reform is different from that of other offices."

Accordingly, future military reforms are likely to begin with the uncovering of irregularities inside the military. In fact, former Minister Kwon had promoted the uncovering of internal military irregularities since his inauguration. He did not carry this out on his own will, however, but he was compelled to dissolve suspicions one by one. Therefore, we can expect that more positive, active, and rapid reforms will be fulfilled by each Army office from now on.

It is expected that the military will first concentrate efforts on completely revealing the scandal involving the Defense Logistics Center's purchase of artillery ammunition, of which people have growing suspicions. Beginning early next year, it will probably expose irregularities on a full scale by mobilizing all its inspection and supervisory institutions, including the Armed Forces Special Inspection Group and the Defense Ministry's Inspection Office. It is also expected that the military will hold a large-scale reorganization to enhance its supervisory function so as to remove deep-rooted irregularities involving military supplies and facilities.

As a result of a series of military inspections and the removal of the Hanahoe faction, many of those who had worked for the military for tens of years have been abruptly dismissed, thus confusing the military leadership system. People have noted this as an adverse effect of the military reform. In fact, the first-line commanders have become extremely cautious about their behavior as they have watched frequent reshuffles following trivial incidents.

Defense Minister Yi, who maintains distinguished personal relations inside the military, listened closely to the public opinion within the military while he was the director of the Agency for Patriots and Veterans Affairs. Thus, he is expected to substantially push ahead with the reform while preventing disturbances inside the military.

Minister Yi graduated with the 17th Class of the Military Academy. After noticing the public opinion demands that his alumna in the military retire voluntarily so as to not make it difficult for him to command them, he clearly said that no reshuffle will be done in connection with the public opinion demands. However, he is confident that he will display his commandership as a minister. This means that he strongly demands their voluntary participation and active cooperation in the military reform.

Members of the military personnel are interested in the future of Hanahoe members, reminding people of the fact that Minister Yi was also a Hanahoe member. President Kim and the military leadership, however, have already announced their policy on selective reinstatements of Hanahoe members according to their ability beginning next year. Therefore, collective dismissals or appointments are unlikely to be made.

Kim Tae-chung Political, Unification Roles

942C0040A Seoul WOLGAN CHUNGANG in Korean Nov 93 pp 158-167

[Article by Sin Chae-hyong]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] If we look at the five years of the No Tae-u administration from Kim Tae-chung's position, we reach a very interesting conclusion: the five years of the 6th Republic restored to Kim Tae-chung an image befitting the leader of an opposition party for the first time since 1971. This is on the surface. Looking deeper, however, it is not that simple. During this time, Kim Tae-chung was completely disarmed. [passage omitted]

Unachievable during the 25 years of military government from Pak Chong-hui through Chon Tu-hwan, No Tae-u accomplished the elimination of Kim Tae-chung after only five years. By embracing Kim Yong-sam, another political enemy of the military government, he decided the outcome of the 1992 presidential election. It was the final battle between the eternal rivals Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung, who for the last 30 years have at times competed and at times joined hands. As a result, Kim Yong-sam went into the Blue House and Kim Tae-chung back to "the quite life of a citizen." [passage omitted]

Immediately after his retirement, events even Kim Tae-chung could not have foreseen started occurring. The media heaped praise on him as a great man, a political giant, a teacher of the Korean people. "Honeymoon with the media." A politician of effort, Kim Tae-chung achieved what had eluded him during the 40 years of his political life.[passage omitted]

Ten months have already passed. Kim immediately left on an exile that was not an exile. He returned to Korea after spending six months at Cambridge, searching out a new life for himself. Since returning, he has refrained from making any political statements. He arranged for an apartment on Mount Il overlooking the Han River and, distancing himself from politics, has devoted himself to studying proposals for unification.

Since returning, he repeatedly increased the radius of his nonpolitical activities. He is engrossed in research, lecturing, writing activities, debate with scholars and with establishing a research foundation. Despite this, his relative political weight is increasing daily. Kidnapping him, imprisoning him, releasing him and disarming him while holding the reins of power, the earnest wish of three military presidents ultimately went unfulfilled. [passge omitted]

With him thus distancing himself from real politics, how can we explain Kim Tae-chung's swelling political image?

First, we can mention President Kim Yong-sam's great political ability. The powerful reformation drive led by sole-remaining political giant President Kim Yong-sam gives one a real feel for this "one-man political era." The political runaway of the Blue House, the political disappearance of Youi-do, the loss of the military's political influence, the drift of TK and the stagnation of the opposition are the era's distinguishing political phenomena, which have occurred during the eight months since the birth of the Kim Yong-sam administration.

The sudden personnel changes, purge of the Hana Hoe, reevaluation of history, anti-corruption drive, personal-assets registration and sudden implementation of the real-name financial system shook the roots of vested forces. A couple things did not change amid this political vortex. One is the territories of the three great political forces; the second is the political importance of Kim Tae-chung.[passage omitted]

Kim Tae-chung's political importance comes from his spontaneously fervent and strongly united base of support. It is characterized by its lack of buoyancy in fluctuation. Before Kim retired, criticism poured out of the DP, "He doesn't know how to cultivate people." Treated this way, when he retired, "Youi-do Politics" itself disappeared.[passage omitted]

Maintained by the strong charisma of Kim Tae-chung, the DP merely continues its nine-man-nine-color [9 In 9 Saek] war of attrition. We no longer find the opposition as it should be, offering restraint and alternative ideas through criticism.[passage omitted]

It is said Kim Tae-chung decided to retire, "clearly aware" of the fact that, to fight a battle of wits with political ninth-degree President Kim Yong-sam, only he, also a ninth-degree, was capable. They say he retired knowing that one day he would be called back. Based on this analysis, the Kim Tae-chung who "left politics" is "still" playing the protagonist of many political scenarios.

Theories are circulating that Kim Tae-chung will become the Kim Yong-sam administration's last prime minister based on a high-sensitivity consensus between the two Kims, that he will form a coalition government with President Kim, that he will be a special envoy to the North, that he will become president of a unified Korea based on his political influence, that the Yi Ki-taek leadership of the DP will collapse, and even that he will become a candidate for Seoul mayor under a system of regional self-rule.[passage omitted]

The liaison office in the Aryung Building located in Tonggyo-dong, a preparation office for the "Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation" to reveal itself sometime around the end of this year or the beginning of the next, is off-limits to political-affairs reporters. On the desk of Assistant

Director Yi Kang-nae, in charge of the office's publicity, is written the phone numbers of unification-affairs reporters. [passage omitted]

Exchanging opinions with about 30 Columbia University professors on October 2nd, Kim Tae-chung asserted, "I have no intention of visiting North Korea or meeting with North Korean President Kim Il-song before he and President Kim Yong-sam hold a North-South summit meeting." It is inadvisable because to do so could mislead North Korea and because there is concern the he would be used by the North, he said.

He even canceled his scheduled talk with James Laney, due to be appointed as the new U.S. ambassador to South Korea. His reason was, "It wouldn't look good to meet with Ambassador Laney before President Kim does." Actually, given Kim Tae-chung and Ambassador Laney's relationship, they could meet as private citizens. While in exile in the U.S. in 1983, Kim received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Emory University. Laney was university president at that time.

Meeting with reporters at his home in Tonggyo-dong after returning to Korea, Kim Tae-chung added, "As a citizen, that would not be polite to do to the president." The fact that he thought more deeply of courtesy toward President Kim than of the close, personal friendship he has formed with him over several decades is very significant. This means that he has psychologically overcome his rivalry with President Kim. This is because, for this to become possible, he had to give up reentering politics.[passage omitted]

"I have no bad feelings toward President Kim Yong-sam," he disclosed at the reception. This suggests that the bitterness resulting from the scheme to damage him by making him out to be pro-Communist during the last presidential campaign relented with the apology of Democratic Justice Party [DJP] President Kim Chong-pil. "The grief and anger when [he] heard the word pro-Communist" (at a Jan 93 dinner party to which reporters were invited) has abated after ten months, bearing fruit in "a citizen's courtesy toward the president."[passage omitted]

Characterizing the nature of the "Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation" [APPF] as a research organization, he revealed, "[Its character] is in proposing policy based on research results. It is entirely the government's job to adopt and promoted [such policy]."

It is reported that the APPF to be headed by Kim will have Gorbachev and others as advisors, and that former West German foreign minister Genscher, the Chicago University professor Bruce Cummings, Tokyo University professor Wada Hruki, Kyonghui University professor Ra Chong-il, Seoul National University professor Han Sang-jin and Hansin University professor Pak Chong-hwa and other nationally and internationally prominent scholars will participate as consultants. Once the director of Kyongnam University's Far East Issues Research Center [Kukdong Munje Yonguso], Professor Cho Yong-hwan (U.S. University of Arizona professor of international politics) was decided upon as the foundation's present secretary general.

It was decided that two foundation-affiliated research centers for studying North-South unification issues and Asian democracy would be set up. So that the foundation could be registered, certification was recently completed on three plots of Yongdung-po land which are under the name of Kim's wife, Ms. Yi Hui-ho. The plots were verified to be worth over 3 billion won. For the foundation's building, they decided to continue using their Aryung Building office, in Tonggyo-dong, expanding it. Work on the office interior was completed while Kim was on his foreign tour. Only the formalities of legal registration remain.

At a press conference, Kim revealed that he got broad support for his three-principle, three-stage unification plan from Gorbachev, Von Weizsacker, and Carter.

In particular, he and former Soviet president Gorbachev decided to meet sometime next year. Kim announced his plan to invite German President Weizsacker and former foreign minister Genscher, considered likely to become Germany's next president, to Korea sometime next year for a joint seminar and other activities. Furthermore, explaining that former president Carter had been invited by North Korea and was giving consideration to visiting there, he expressed his expectations, "He will play a big role in North-South unification."

Here we can pose several questions, however. Kim Tae-chung is establishing the international image of the APPF even before it officially embarks and is increasing interchange with world leaders form various countries through the foundation, this less than one year after retiring from politics. What do his actions signify? Working to become a leader acknowledged internationally, what are the moves he's making?

Offering as an example the fact that the Dalai Lama of Tibet was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize after being recommended as a candidate ten times, Kim Tae-chung's aids are anticipating that he, a candidate for the seventh time this year, will be awarded the prize "sometime."[passage omitted]

He plans to visit the Philippines next year as a guest speaker at the Asia-Pacific Peace Conference. He is considering a plan to request, jointly with Ms. Aquino and others, that the ban be lifted from Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi. His plan to join the ranks of world leaders by breaking through the barbed wire cutting across the Korean Peninsula and by contributing to the peace and democratization of Asia is very grand.

There are also those who interpret these actions and ideas of Kim Tae-chung as preparation for returning to politics. Influential figures in the DLP's Democratic-Party faction assert: "Of course, unification is not an outstanding political issue at this point in time. Before long, however, it will come to the fore as real political issue. Party President Kim Tae-chung's (the individual used the title "Party President") return to politics is only a matter of time. He is merely waiting for the situation to ripen. All of Party President Kim Tae-chung's efforts end in one thing: returning to politics and, at the same time, reducing the antipathy that will naturally follow from this."[passage omitted]

The view that President Kim and his aides, who dream of the next presidential election, are nervous about Kim Tae-chung's actions circulated for a time after the implementation of the real-name financial system. Invited by opposition figures, Kim Tae-chung held a meeting to explain the results of his research on unification problems in Building 63's International Conference Hall on August 13th.

On this day, the 20th anniversary of his Tokyo kidnapping by South Korean CIA personnel, some 4,000 people packed the Building 63 conference hall. The implementation of the real-name financial system was suddenly announced the previous evening. In the political sector, views vary on President Kim's reasons for choosing August 12th as the time to announce this. The main current of opinion is that, foreseeing defeat in the Taegu special election, he wanted to lessen the aftereffects of this and also that he wanted to reduce the significance of Kim Tae-chung's address.

The scale of the lecture makes a political interpretation possible. It was the title that was surprising, however. In the past, Kim Tae-chung had expressed his position that an actual politician must be a half-step ahead of the public. After retiring, however, he is at least more than a step ahead. On this day, he presented a plan for unification entitled, "A National-Alliance-Style Unification Can Be Achieved in 1995. If reminded of the fact that he has exercised restraint in words and actions that might bring red-baiting due to his suffering in the past, this title is very shocking. This is because it is in agreement with North Korea's position: "Let's make 1995 the first year of unification."[passage omitted]

His influence on the DP is the same as ever. Recently, Kim Tae-chung and his core Tonggyo-dong aides are drawing attention because they are beginning to support Yi Ki-taek's independent stance. Before leaving for the United Kingdom, Kim Tae-chung did not deny his inclination toward Yi Ki-taek.[pasage omitted] However, the Yi Ki-taek leadership system of the DP has suffered from a nine-man-nine-color lack of leadership. Particularly after the political defeat in the Chunchon and Taegu special elections, it showed an extreme lack of leadership. Recently, moreover, the image of the DP co-presidents is dropping. Party President Yi Ki-taek weakened it by commissioning lawmakers Kim Sang-hyon and Chong Tae-chol and former lawmaker Yi Chong-jae as advisors. More evidence of this: Kim Tae-chung's direct faction is reshuffling its ranks, providing an emergency transfusion to an Yi Ki-taek faction confronted its limits.

On September 4th, Kwon Ro-gap's Korean Political Research Association and Han Kwang-ok's New Political Research Association merged to form the "Korean Domestic and Foreign Issues Research Association." A private organization of Yi Ki-taek, the Tongil Sanhahoe recently admitted Rep. Kang Chang-song and Rep. Chang Chae-sik. Afterwards, Yi Ki-taek appointed former party vice president Pae Ki-son to be his aid and is operating a separate planning team. During the presidential election, Pae become known as the opposition's greatest election strategist. This series of measures is being interpreted as: 1) having been taken at the suggestion of Kim Tae-chung; and 2) as a strategy to reform the ranks of the Tonggyo-dong direct faction and reinforce the Yi Ki-taek leadership by having this group form a centripetal force. This is because movement by the Tonggyo-dong direct faction cannot be understood apart from the intentions of Kim Tae-chung.[passage omitted]

The assertion by some that Kim Tae-chung's support for the Yi Ki-taek leadership is merely an expedient for preserving his influence with the DP carries considerable weight, however. Rep. Chong Tae-chol even said that he heard "very encouraging" words when visiting Kim after his return in July. In fact, no one within the DP can attempt to stand alone contrary to Kim Tae-chung's intentions. The DP has no choice but to be aware of Kim Tae-chung's gaze even if he does not make any suggestions.[passage omitted]

We must keep watch on his actions to see whether his research on plans for uniting the Korean Peninsula, to which he is devoting all his efforts, and his plans, to be seen in the future, for the democratization and peace of Asia conform to his promise made as he retired from politics, his pledge to "Make my last service for the people and the nation."[passage omitted]

Dissatisfaction Grows Over Somalia Efforts

SK2412044493 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] Growing dissatisfaction has been expressed in connection with Korean peace-keeping forces' remaining in Somalia despite projected earlier withdrawals of forces by major Western nations, including the United States, France, Germany and Italy.

If U.S. and other Western soldiers are withdrawn from the civil- war-stricken African nation, Korean troops will be exposed to more danger although they are not fighting forces directed against the faction led by warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid, observers said.

They are also critical of the dispatch of a 27-member infantry platoon to Somalia in partial replacement of troops there.

The government Wednesday sent 80 persons, including the 27 foot soldiers, to the African nation, replacing the same number of returning construction engineers from the total of 250, who have been serving there since last July. The remaining 170 troopers will be replaced on Jan. 22.

The peace-keeping operation in Somalia has been cited as one of the greatest failures of the United States, leader of the U.N. peacekeeping operation.

The Bill Clinton administration had decided to withdraw its forces by March 31 amid harsh public criticism after 18 Americans were killed and 75 wounded Oct. 3. The U.S. forces clashed with Aidid's forces in searching for Aidid.

The U.S. forces started withdrawing last Friday, and a total of 2,500 will have left Somalia by tomorrow, Christmas Day. The full contingent of more than 8,000 troops will be evacuated from Somalia by March 31.

The U.N. mission in Somalia currently includes more than 30,000 troops from 28 countries, including 2,900 U.S. soldiers. Another 8,800 Americans are under a separate U.S. command.

It is reported that only a few hundred U.S. soldiers will stay for logistics jobs after March.

France already pulled out 400 soldiers last week and plans to gradually reduce its forces in Somalia by March 31. The main French contingent at Baidoa has been replaced by Indian troops, according to reports.

On Monday, Germany also announced that it will withdraw its 1,700 soldiers by next March.

Italy is reported to bring its 2,500 troops home before March.

The withdrawal of Italian forces is particularly important to Korea as some of the Italian troops are guarding the area where Korean engineers are engaged in road repair work, an observer said.

The government has not taken any action despite the projected withdrawal of major Western forces. "Our troops will remain there until next June as scheduled. No other decision has been made," a Foreign Ministry official said.

A REUTER report quoted a commander of an African contingent as saying, "The questions being asked back at home at the moment are like why should we stay and face death when powerful, far richer nations with the capability to do things, are leaving?"

GATT Accord on Antidumping Assessed

SK2412045593 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Dec 93 p 8

[By staff reporter Yu Kun-ha]

[Text] If there was one area in the Uruguay Round [UR] of trade talks where Korea negotiated a deal to its satisfaction, it was the one concerning antidumping. Antidumping was one of the topics that generated the hottest debate in the trade talks. Advanced countries, especially the United States, wanted to widen the scope of unilateral antidumping measures, while developing countries in contrast sought to put the brake on the abuse of antidumping rules by their rich trade partners.

"The final accord on antidumping reached in the UR talks represents a compromise between the two groups of countries. It is, however, favorable to exporting countries like Korea," said Pak Un- so, assistant minister for trade policy of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE).

Pak was one of the chief Korean negotiators sent to Geneva.

The accord in the first place clarified the method of calculating antidumping margins, strengthened the criteria for an importing country to declare that dumping has inflicted damage on its industries and spelled out the procedures for imposition of antidumping duties.

In determining whether a product has been dumped or not, the United States has thus far not recognized the so-called "negative dumping," the selling of goods at prices higher than their average prices.

This U.S. practice disregards the fact that during a certain period of time, the export prices of most articles normally fluctuate, sometimes going above the average while at other times going below.

When an importing country excludes the above-average prices in calculating the normal export price of a certain item, the likelihood of the item in question being ruled as dumped is greater than otherwise would be the case.

The new UR agreement recognizes the negative dumping, thus reducing the fear exporters from developing countries have of facing dumping charges.

The new UR agreement also set the permissible dumping margin rate at 2 percent, much higher than the U.S. standard of 0.5 percent.

The U.S. currently ends investigation into dumping charges only when the dumping margin rate proves to be 0.5 percent or lower. But the new UR accord demands it raise the so-called "de minimis" standard to 2 percent.

This new rule is obviously favorable to exporters in developing countries. According to MOTIE's Pak, when the rule takes effect in 1995, the dumping charges leveled against Samsung Electronics this year for its semiconductors will be lifted as the calculated dumping margin was below 2 percent.

The new antidumping accord also has a "sunset clause" which stipulates that antidumping duties in principle terminate five years after their imposition.

The United States currently does not apply such a provision and hence can leave antidumping duties on certain items in place as long as it wants.

In fact, it has not yet lifted antidumping duties on Korean-made color televisions and photo albums which were introduced in 1983 and 1984, respectively.

When the new accord goes into effect in 1995, however, the two items will be freed from U.S. antidumping regulations.

According to MOTIE officials, during the trade talks, the United States threatened Korea and other countries relying heavily on exports with a proposal to punish exporters who try to circumvent antidumping duties by shifting production plants to other countries.

The U.S. proposed to clamp the same antidumping duties on exports from a third-country plant set up by an exporter if and when he is found to have dumped exports produced at his home-country plants.

Korea and other exporting countries strongly resisted this U.S. proposal as it could have serious consequences on overseas investments by their exporters.

The new UR accord does not define it as "circumventive dumping" if the goods suspected of being dumped are produced at third-country plants.

It, however, allows an importing country to impose antidumping duties when an exporter sets up an assembly plant in the importing country, brings over 70 percent of the necessary parts from his home-country plant and sells the assembled products in the importing country at prices lower than normal.

The new antidumping agreement will also curb the excessive recourse by U.S. firms to antidumping measures by strengthening the requirements to do so.

According to MOTIE officials, the antidumping suit against Korean photo album producers was filed by a small American firm near Boston which had only 22 employees and accounted for an almost negligible share of the U.S. market.

The small firm's action, however, drove more than 80 Korean photo album producers out of business.

Under the new accord, an antidumping suit can be filed when it is supported by more than half of the firms which expressed their views and the supporters' share of the market exceeds 25 percent.

The agreement, however, allows, as demanded by the United States, trade unions to take an antidumping dispute to the antidumping panel of the envisioned World Trade Organization (WTO) which will replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"In all, the antidumping agreement can be seen as satisfactory to Korea and developing countries as it is capable of containing unilateral trade measures by major players," Pak said.

He also said the agreement on safeguards, measures an importing country can take when a sudden increase in imports is feared to damage its domestic industries, will also benefit Korea and other exporting countries.

The accord calls for, among others, the abolition within four years of all "gray area" measures, such as the "voluntary export restraint (VER)" exercised by an exporting country either voluntarily or in compliance with bilateral agreements between governments.

When introduced voluntarily, the restraint is designed to prevent overcompetition among exporting firms. But it can be demanded by an importing country to control the amount of imports.

Currently, Korea exports a total of 180 items under the VER formula, 143 items, including videocassette recorders (VCRs), to prevent overcompetition and the remaining 37 items, including microwave ovens, under agreement with importing countries.

The government intends to gradually lift the voluntary export regulations which in turn will boost exports.

Daewoo Chairman, Political Dissident Depart

SK2312080893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Dec 93 p 8

[Text] It was very usual for Daewoo chairman Kim U-chung to embark on an overseas trip around the year-end holidays. But his trip, started yesterday [22 December] drew keen attention from in and outside the business quarter as it was joined by Chang Ki-pyo, who had represented the young political dissent in the eras of Pak Chong-hui, Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u.

Daewoo officials tried to play down the significance of their travel, flatly dismissing suspicions of any political ambitions on Kim's part and largely describing it as being "personal." Kim once aggressively moved to run for the last presidential election a year ago.

"Chairman Kim just wanted to exchange views on overall affairs including politics and economy and encourage Chang to write some essays on the contents of their dialogue and their travel," one spokesman said.

Chang said that he would learn what chaebol [conglomerate] means for the Korean economy and what it is doing, adding that his interest would also go to international economic trends. He is Kim's junior at Seoul's Kyonggi High School. [sentence as published]

Their two-week journey will take them to nine countries in Asia and Africa.

It was the third that the founder and owner of the Daewoo group, the third largest conglomerate in Korea, traveled overseas together with notable figures of their circles following the first with former professor Kim Yong-ok in 1990 and second with novelist Yi Mun-yol last year.

Chang Ki-pyo was a renowned dissident activist, jailed once in a while, in the past military governments. He and some of his colleagues have apparently subdued their struggle since President Kim Yong-sam took office last February as the first civilian leader in 32 years.

'Real-Name System' Restricts Access to Loans

SK2312093093 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Dec 93 p 8

[Text] The real-name financial transaction system, which took effect Aug. 12, has thrown local small and medium businesses into a financial crisis because they now have less access to loans from financial institutions and the crippled private lending market, according to a survey released yesterday.

Slightly over three out of 10 small enterprises reported decreases in bank borrowing after using real names in all financial transactions became mandatory, showed a survey of 243 small and medium firms throughout the country.

Only 16 percent of the small enterprises said their bank borrowings had increased, according to the survey conducted by the Korea Small Business Institute.

About 50 percent and 31.1 percent of the firms surveyed said their dependence on both mutual savings and financial companies and short-term financing firms dropped. On the contrary, only 19.0 percent and 11.8 percent reported more borrowings from the mutual savings and financial companies and short-term financing firms, respectively.

Since the real-name system was introduced, the small enterprises' dependence on the private money market, the major source of their funds, has also plummeted. About 71 percent of those surveyed said their loans from the curb market had decreased, while only 9.4 percent reported increases.

The financial crunch facing small companies stems from the fact that they, having no choice but to switch from the curb market to financial institutions under the real-name system, cannot gain more access to loans from the institutions, the survey showed.

Meanwhile, a variety of government subsidies, designed to prevent the bankruptcy of small enterprises, are of less help to companies with less than 20 employees than to larger firms, the survey showed.

About 48 percent of the firms with 100 to 200 workers enjoyed financial assistance from the government, while only 23 percent of companies with less than 20 employees received government subsidies, according to the survey.

The real-name system, in the meantime, has increased the tax burdens of the small firms because it has made it impossible to evade taxes through undocumented transactions, it showed.

Some 26 percent replied that their tax burden increased by over 50 percent, 22.5 percent by 20 to 50 percent and 32.5 percent by less than 20 percent, according to the survey.

Firms To Establish Finance Subsidiaries

SK2412043993 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Dec 93 p 9

[By staff reporter Yi Chang-sop]

[Text] From April 1, manufacturing companies will be able to establish finance companies with a paid-in capital of 20 billion won, the Ministry of Finance [MOF] said.

It said automobile companies, electronics makers and piano manufacturers will set up their subsidiaries aimed at financing consumers of their products.

Such automobile firms as Hyundai, Daewoo, and Kia will be the first group to apply for the establishment of their financing subsidiaries, many analysts said.

The National Assembly revised the Credit Card Business Law early this month and paved the way for manufacturing companies to create their financing subsidiaries.

The credit card industry will take a great leap forward as the government streamlined and liberalized restrictions hindering their business through the revision of the Credit Card Business Law.

Plastic card firms will be able to increase their capital up to 20 billion won from next April, compared with the current limit of 200 million won to 5,000 million won. The capital increase will make credit card firms bigger and financially sound, an MOF official said.

Through the increase of capital, the MOF also seeks to weed out small-size plastic card companies.

From next year, plastic card firms will be able to issue "pre-paid cards." They can also establish subsidiaries which will take exclusive charge of collecting overdue loans from delinquent card members.

Under the revised Credit Card Business Law, operators of credit card chains will be fined up to 10 million won or given jail terms of up to one year if they are engaged in illegal activities, including undue service fees from plastic card holders.

Those illegally circulating or distributing plastic card bills will also be subject to fines of up to 10 million won or jail terms of up to one year, the MOF said.

Even before the revision of the Credit Card Business Law, the government eliminated restrictions on the maximum installment purchase amount, its installment repayment period and cash advance services. Initially, all credit card companies rushed to raise the installment purchase amount, extend its repayment period and expand cash advances but later trimmed the ceilings as they could not raise enough funds to meet customer demands.

A MOF official said the government no longer intervenes in the internal affairs of the credit card companies.

Due to such liberalization measures, the local credit card companies are expected to register sales of 23 trillion won this year, up more than 60 percent from last year. Except for two foreign firms, Diners and American Express, all card firms posted handsome incomes.

Japan Card Bureau has opened an office in Korea to mobilize Korean members and the Korea B.C. Card Company, a consortium of major commercial banks, has opened a representative office this year.

Local credit card companies also set up their own association to promote their interests this year. Their major campaign is that credit cards are not "responsible for fanning excessive consumption or distorting the nation's monetary policy."

By the end of this year, the number of plastic card companies are expected to be 16 million, meaning that each member of the economically active population has at least one card.

Firm on Plans for ISDN Telecommunications

SK2312075593 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Dec 93 pp 3, 4

[By staff reporter Choe Sang-hun]

[Text] If you still think the telephone line can only carry the human voice, you don't know the half of it.

The nation's biggest telephone company announced yesterday that it is starting services that will ultimately let its customers receive several phone calls, fax and other data and video transmissions over the same phone line.

In the long run, this new technology, known as ISDN [integrated services digital network], will allow customers to roam through video libraries hundreds of miles away, and will greatly accelerate the marriage of the telephone and the computer.

But in the shorter term, the company, Korea Telecom, says it will offer a broad range of integrated services, in which a salesperson, for example, can call up his boss and discuss a graph of recent sales displayed on his computer terminal.

The services, which start in Seoul and 10 other major cities across the nation next week, include various added-on features, such as the ability to exchange short messages and inquire about phone charges through the small number-and-letter display sitting atop the telephone.

And company officials say they also offer high-speed data transmission services, from fax messages to network transmission, for owners of ISDN terminals. The new services will greatly upgrade the quality of data transmission.

"With the introduction of ISDN services, we have taken an important step toward the so-called advanced information society of the next century," said Yi Sang-chol, chief of Korea Telecom's project development division.

While telecom operators are adopting new technologies like fiber optics and digital transmission to lay the foundations for new telecom infrastructure, the move by Korea Telecom marks the first big commitment to install the ISDN on a nationwide basis.

ISDN stands for integrated services digital network. Voice, data, fax, broadcasts and even moving pictures—in other words, all information that can be transmitted in digital form—can be handled over the ISDN. Previously each of these services required its own network.

In the full-fledged ISDN services, the telephone will become the computer terminal giving access to a variety of services like telephone, data transmission and data bases. The future will see videoconferencing, teleshopping and "telecommuting" or working at home.

In Korea Telecom's ISDN services, up to eight different communication devices can be hooked up to a single phone line and two of them can be used at the same time. This means customers can hold a single phone number and still receive a fax message while using the phone.

"This means the end of the livingroom row over the telephone," said Kim Sok-cho, a director of Korea Telecom. "Two family members can talk on the phone at the same time. Until now, if you had an on-line buff at your home, you often had to wait dozens of minutes to get on the phone. This is not so any more."

Full-fledged ISDN will not be introduced overnight. It will evolve over the next several years as operators install new switching facilities, transmission devices and local networks, and equipment makers strive to offer cheaper terminals.

To give some idea of the size and potential of ISDN, there are now more than 20 million telephones in use here.

The number of personal computers installed has grown to more than 4 million. There are also numerous fax machines. That's an awful lot of hardware just waiting to be connected through the ISDN.

The government plans to develop the basics of the new telecom infrastructure—new switching gear, transmission system and terminals—by the year 2000 at a cost of some 685 billion won.

Sometime in the next five years, Korea Telecom says that it will be able to offer basic ISDN services throughout the nation.

"In time, it will be the common mode of communication," said Kim. Executives will carry new business cards that show off their ISDN number. Tens of thousands of people around the nation will tap into databases and order up video movies and games at home.

Burma

SLORC Economic, Political Controls Noted

BK2612055293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0544 GMT 26 Dec 93

[By Michele Cooper]

[Excerpts] Rangoon, Dec 26 (AFP)—Burma's military rulers have eased their control over the economy but are reluctant to relax their grip on the country's political life.

The ruling junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), is gambling that the middle classes will be satisfied with an improved standard of living and will not want to risk further political upheaval, analysts say.

"If you have some money, life is better in Rangoon than it is in Bangkok. There's less noise, less traffic and more time to enjoy life," a businesswoman said. "You just don't talk about politics."

Burma's economic liberalization program began to bear fruit in 1992 after six straight years of negative or minimal real growth.

While independent analysts agree that the official figure of 10.9 percent GDP growth last year is exaggerated, they say the more realistic figure of around five percent growth is nonetheless respectable.

Both Burmese and foreign analysts acknowledge there have been changes for the better politically as well, especially since April 1992 when the more liberal General Than Shwe took over as head of the SLORC.

"In Burmese terms, they've come a long way: there's no more curfew, some 1,600 political prisoners have been released and university classes have resumed," a Western diplomat observed.

But would-be demonstrators still face arrest, and the country's best-known political detainee, Aung San Suu Kyi, is in her fifth year of house arrest.

"The SLORC must find a solution to Aung San Suu Kyi," the diplomat said. [paasage omitted]

"People are tired of the uncertainty. We just want to live peacefully with our families," another resident said.

Analysts say the SLORC's strategy of improving the standard of living for the better-off and educated classes, who are a potential source of trouble, may backfire in the longer term if there is no trickle-down effect.

At the moment, the middle class knows that if it cooperates with the SLORC it will get richer, but the vast majority of the population has been getting poorer, the analysts say. [passage omitted]

While the government has a presence in most of the country, experts estimate that as much as 20 percent of national territory is not under government control. Members of the SLORC put the figure variously at between three and 10 percent.

Official Attitudes on Logging, Requirements

BK2412093293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0205 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Rangoon, Dec 24 (AFP)—The Burmese timber industry, the country's leading foreign exchange earner, is actively courting foreign investors while promoting sound ecological principles.

And its forestry conservation practices have enabled the government to reap rare accolades from a Western world which was outspoken in its criticism of the military junta's takeover after public demonstrations five years ago.

"Burma gets a bum rap" on logging practices, an otherwise- critical foreign observer commented. "The government is repressive, but its conservation policies are enlightened," a Western diplomat said.

With about 75 percent of the world's teak reserves and a large quantity of other hardwoods, Rangoon has invited up to 100 percent foreign investment in everything from sawmills to furniture factories to gain sorely-needed funds for development.

It intends, however, to maintain strict control of logging operations in order to preserve its forest resources for the future, officials stressed in recent interviews here.

About half the country is covered in forests, and officials said that so far only three million cubic meters (105 million cubic yards) of wood had been cut, compared to 40 million cubic meters (1,400 cubic yards) in Malaysia, which is half the size of Burma.

Before neighboring Thailand banned logging on its own territory in 1988, it had almost halved its forest cover.

When Rangoon called a halt early last year to allegedly abusive Thai logging in concessions along the border, it adjusted its income targets accordingly, planning a 6.9 percent GDP drop in the forestry sector.

In the 1994-95 fiscal year, starting April 1, it hopes to see a new rise in income as investors from places such as Sweden and Thailand come on stream with renovations to local hardwood furniture factories.

But would-be foreign investors are mainly looking for big profits and a quick return, instead of taking a longer view, officials of the Forestry Department and the state-run Myanmar Timber Enterprise complained.

They said they need equipment—including tractors, skidders and road-building machinery to help speed up extraction and delivery to the investors—as well as marketing and technology knowhow. [passage omitted]

But all officials, including Forestry Minister Lieutenant General Chit Swe, stressed that Burma's future resources would not be sacrificed.

Interviewed surrounded by top aides and advisors, the minister, a member of the ruling junta, noted that no one else in the group was wearing military dress.

"I'm the only one wearing the green," he said, tugging at the sleeve of his forest-green uniform. "I like green. I am a conservationist."

His statement was backed up separately by other officials, one of whom said: "The minister is a fanatic. He doesn't want to fell any trees. He wants to lower the quota. What he wants are natural parks, wildlife, ecotourism."

Under a system of selective felling on a sustainable basis, the Forestry Department allocates a quota of Annual Allowable Cuts (AAC) for all commercial varieties in strictly-defined sites.

Loggers could harvest up to 350,000 tonnes of teak and 1.3 million tonnes of other hardwoods annually without endangering future extraction, according to official calculations.

Actual figures stand at approximately 250,000 tonnes and 500,000 tonnes—due in part to equipment shortages, officials ackno@ledged.

They also said the shortfall compensated for remote areas outside their control along the borders—estimated by one official at "maybe 5-7 percent" but which foreign analysts put at between 15 and 20 percent.

The ministry meanwhile replants some 80,000 acres (200,000 hectares) a year, half in teak and other hardwoods. Much of the rest is devoted to faster-growing trees to be used for the fuel on which 70 percent of the population is dependent.

ABSDF Issues Declaration on Peace, Cease-Fire

BK2412135493 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 23 Dec 93

["Excerpts" of declaration on internal peace and cease-fire issued by the All Burma Students' Democratic Front on 17 December]

[Excerpts] For nearly half a century—since independence—there has been no internal peace, and the civil war continues to rage. In the introduction of the declaration, it says the chain of reactionary rulers have excessively expanded their military power as well as the military bureaucracy, which includes military intelligence, using civil war as a pretext. [passage omitted]

That is why one should seriously and deeply understand and believe that there will be no genuine peace as long as the military dictatorship exists. The declaration also urged the people to eradicate the military dictatorship and strive for genuine peace.

The declaration also added that there is a possibility of establishing a genuine peace if the reactionary force [the State Law and Order Restoration Council], which is continuing the civil war to prolong its hold on power, understands the negative effects of the civil war, is willing to work for the benefit of the country, has a desire to establish a genuine peace, and is willing to adopt the following conditions. Should one have good intentions, peace can be established by resolving the political problems through political solutions. During the Burmese civil war, there were attempts to restore internal peace through political means. For various reasons, they did not bear fruit. Analysis shows that the basic reason was the lack of good intentions. As long as there is such a lack, the problem of restoring peace can never be resolved by political means. Having good intentions means:

1. One must accept the fundamental political problems

2. Due to the present situation, one must accept the most practical or most suitable way in employing political measures

3. It should not be meant to extend one's power, gain power, or serve one's personal benefit. It should be aimed at the public interest. One must at least possess these three basic qualities.

There are two fundamental political problems. They are the lack of democracy and human rights, and the establishment of a federal union. As long as these two problems are not resolved properly, then there will be no harmony and the civil war will continue to rage.

The following are the concerned parties who should be directly involved in restoring peace through political solutions. They are:

A. all armed revolutionary groups, including the members of the Democratic Alliance of Burma [DAB] and the nonmembers of the DAB

B. the internal political forces, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

C. the organizations unable to establish a genuine peace, but who have negotiated with the military clique for peace and continue to retain their arms

D. the military clique presently holding power

Brunei, Malaysia, & Singapore

Malaysia

Badawi: Superpowers Should Act on Bosnia

BK2812095593 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0920 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 28 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Various efforts have been made to deal with the problem of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina but without the commitment of the superpowers, such efforts would not be able to stop the oppression of Bosnians by the Serbs.

In fact, efforts by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the United Nations (UN), the European Community (EC) and the London Conference on Bosnia have still not made any progress in dealing with the situation.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Tuesday, that although the crisis had dragged on without any concrete solution, Malaysia would continue its efforts to persuade the superpowers to take more drastic and effective measures.

He added Malaysia was making efforts towards achieving a solution to the problem by launching a campaign to seek stronger support from influential groups especially among parliamentarians, legislators, politicians and lawyers.

Abdullah said that the Bosnian problem was not only the responsibility of the OIC but a world problem that should be solved jointly as it affected human rights.

The number of refugees has reached 2.7 million and some 250,000 women and girls have been raped. The situation is worsening as though there is no solution in sight although the civil war has gone on for 20 months, he stressed.

Abdullah said that the Serbs had ample weapons as they had the support of Serbia-Montenegro while an arms embargo had been imposed on the Bosnians.

Sabah Minister Kin Released From Detention

BK2312091893 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Dec 93 p 8

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tuesday—Datuk Dr. Jeffrey Kitingan who was detained under the Internal Security Act for his alleged involvement in a plot to pull Sabah out of Malaysia, will be released tomorrow.

Announcing this today, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub said Kitingan, who was detained in Kamunting since May 13, 1991, would be put under restricted residence in Seremban for a duration of not more than two years.

"The duration of the restriction can be cut short if he shows examplary conduct while under police supervision, or if there is strong reason for the authorities to do so," he told reporters at parliament today.

He said under the restriction order, Kitingan would not be allowed to write or help to write any article that was political in nature, hold gatherings in his house or compound or in any building under his control, and make press statements.

Megat Junid said Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed had agreed to the release since Kitingan had shown remorse for his previous actions and realised that it was detrimental to the stability of the country.

In Kota Kinabalu, Chief Minister Datuk Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan said he was happy that his younger brother was going to be released.

"I thank the federal government for this kind gesture. This is a Christmas present for the Kitingan family."

Cambodia

Khieu Samphan's 17 Dec Message to King

BK2812052193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Dec 93

["Telegram" from party of Democratic Kampuchea President Khieu Samphan to King Norodom Sihanouk following his meeting with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, "chairman of the FUNCINPEC party"; dated 17 December —read by announcer]

[Text] Humbly to His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of the Kingdom of Kampuchea:

Majesty, in response to my request after I was granted an audience with you in Beijing on 28-30 November, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh graciously permitted me to visit him in Bangkok, Thailand, on the afternoon of 17 December 1993.

So, together with His Excellency [H.E.] Chan Youran and H.E. Mak Ben, I paid a courtesy call on HRH Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh and held with him a discussion and exchange of views with the goal of jointly resolving problems, big and small, that are currently facing our Cambodian nation and people.

I ask your august permission to inform you, majesty, of the plans that I presented to HRH Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh during that meeting.

I. My colleagues and I expressed pleasure and thanks to him for graciously granting us that audience.

II. I informed him that I fully agree with your majesty's oft-repeated stance that the situation in Cambodia is extremely serious and its future gloomy and that the only magic cure to this serious ailment is national reconciliation, national unity, and the rallying of all national forces around the king, around the throne just as your majesty advocated when you headed the royal crusade to win full national independence for our motherland in 1952-53. I also related to him that that is the understanding and joint aspiration of our nation and people from all circles, both in the countryside and in the cities, at home and abroad. Our people sincerely and profoundly wish for national reconciliation, national unity, and the rallying of all national forces, because this issue is very important and directly concerns the life or death of our Cambodian nation and race.

III. I added that to achieve national reconciliation, national unity, and the rallying of all national forces, which is the sacred objective of our king, nation, and people, it is imperative that all Cambodian leaders meet, discuss, or hold work sessions in accordance with the precious opinion of his majesty the king to jointly examine all problems, big or small, and strive to find solutions with the parties making compromises and softening up their stances so that there can be a gradual advance toward national reconciliation and total national unity with no national force being rejected and until we can jointly cure our nation's serious ailment.

On that occasion, I gave assurances to him that the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] does not demand the rejection of any party or the exclusion of any personality or political party. The fact that the PDK has recognized the results of the elections sponsored by UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] should be seen as a confirmation of that stance. Nonetheless, the PDK also does not allow anyone to reject or destroy Democratic Kampuchea, because doing so would be contrary to the spirit of national reconciliation and the rallying of national forces and would only lead the Cambodian nation and race toward collapse and ruination.

IV. I also told HRH Prince Krompreah that because of these reasons and with the permission from your majesty, I myself led a delegation to visit and inform your majesty of our pleasure with, welcome to, and support for your proposals made in your capacity as a Cambodian citizen in an essay dated 21 November 1993 in which your majesty put forth five conditions requiring that all parties give concessions to each other and hold discussions, dialogues, and work sessions in that context.

I pointed out that this initiatvie of your majesty is excellent and will surely bring about national reconciliation, national unity, and the rallying of all national forces.

The political guideline most wisely crafted by your majesty in the interest of all Cambodian leaders and of our nation and people has surely resulted from the profound and thorough thoughts and considerations of your majesty befitting your august position as the father of the nation, father of peace, and father of national independence and as a statesman who has been most prominent in decades of national leadership. This political guideline conforms with the prevailing situation, which requires that all national forces participate in state affairs of all fields and sectors to give a helping hand in redressing the ever-aggravating situation. In particular, it accords with the profound aspiration and sacred desire of each of your subjects who want to see that all parties give concessions to each other by softening up their stances to bring about national reconciliation, national concord, and peace as soon as possible.

I also added that only your majesty who has all the qualities and is richly experienced in state affairs can see through all the problems from all angles to resolutely raise these proposals.

With the support of all parties, this royal guideline will become the second royal crusade for your majesty to fulfill as another noble mission for our Cambodian nation and people and to bring to our country full national independence with its territorial integrity in line with the letter and spirit of the new constitution of our Kingdom of Cambodia.

V. I expressed my firm belief that if your majesty's political guideline is carried out, all Cambodian leaders will give concessions to each other, and there will be an atmosphere of mutual trust, which is a necessary basis for national reconciliation and ntional unity.

On the contrary, if one party is forced by another party to implement preconditions, if it is required to do this or to do that first, then dialogues and discussions would not achieve anything at all, because right from the beginning there is no atmosphere conducive to dialogues or discussions held on an equal footing. Moreover, discussions or dialogues would not achieve anything if one party gives an ultimatum to another. In such a situation, some foreign countries would continue to kindle the flames of war and this will not benefit our nation, people, and Kindom of Cambodia at all. We will only continue to be ruined, and finally we will collapse into the hands of foreign aggressors.

Concerning the cease-fire, I told HRH Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh that the PDK strongly and sincerely wants a real cease-fire and an end to the war. For this reason, the PDK has sought all means and methods by itself and also by adopting and supporting his majesty the king's initiatives to solve once and for all the problems that have been the root cause of the war and the continuation of the current war and to achieve a cease-fire, national reconciliation, and lastiny peace.

I related to him that the cease-fire problem, and this is also the opinion of your majesty, is merely a part of the overall aspect of the war that has been going on since December 1978. In other words, if there is agreement on all issues raised in the political guideline that your majesty put forth on 21 November 1993 there surely will be a cease-fire, because there will be an atmosphere of national reconciliation and the rallying of all national forces. What we should avoid doing is declaring a cease-fire without a solution for lasting peace. That would allow each party to carry out only its own policy, and it would give an opportunity to foreign countries to continue kindling the flames of war.

VI. With the wish of promoting the earliest agreement on all issues in accordance with your majesty's political guideline, I told him that the PDK has always been prepared to do anything that it can and that it believe will not cause collapse or ruination to the nation to fulfill the profound desire of our nation and people. As a matter of fact, I informed him that the list of PDK personalities to take part in state affairs according to your majesty's political guideline will include only intellectuals named in the committee that drafted the political platform of the Cambodian National Union Party and some other intellectuals at home and abroad whose wish is merely to work within the national political community.

The PDK and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea will be completely dissolved when there is national reconciliation, national unity, and the rallying of all national forces into a genuinely national government and a genuinely national army under the real name of Khmer Royal Armed Forces initiated by his majesty the king.

VII. Fired by our respect for his majesty the king's noble instruction and seeing that HRH Prince Krompreah was heavily engaged, I proposed to him the setting up of a technical group so that together we can jointly discuss all problems of the nation without imposing any preconditions. In fact, I proposed that this technical group may be bipartisan with just the representatives of the FUNCINPEC [Nationl United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Camodia] party and those of the PDK or tripartite with also the representatives of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]. On this point, I added that in the case the CPP is represented, the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party should also be represented, for the party of H.E. Son Sann has also contributed greatly to the national force.

In this regard, I accept everything as long as the technical group can operate to allow us to jointly examine and thoroughly discuss problems in a state of relaxation and sincerity. We will note down any problems we agree on, and this technical group will continue to discuss any problems on which we disagree by upholding the spirit of mutual understanding and harmony and by placing the national interests above all else. At the same time, I also gave the names of PDK representatives ready to join this technical group; they are H.E. Chuon Prasit and H.E. Khul Nal.

I told HRH Prince Krompreah it is my belief that in this way and with your majesty's initiative as a beacon, we will surely fulfill the profound aspiration of our nation and people, that is, to realize national reconciliation, national unity, and the rallying of all national forces without rejecting anyone, and together we will solve all other problems, both big and small, national and social, until we fully implement the new constitution of our Kingdom of Cambodia.

I would like to inform your majesty that HRH Prince Krompreah, in reply to my above request, proposed the formation of a technical group to discuss all national problems in line with your majesty's political guideline dated 21 November 1993. I fully agreed with the above proposal of HRH Prince Krompreah. He and I believed that your majesty would graciously grant approval to the establishment of this group. Besides, he and I agreed with one another in supporting your majesty's view that he and I should continue secretly meeting each other for more discussions.

VIII. I once again thanked him for graciously permitting me and my colleagues to see him and discuss with him several problems in a cordial and sincere atmosphere.

All the above is humbly given for your majesty's information. I ask your royal permission to take this opportunity to express best wishes to your majesty. May your majesty promptly recover your good health so that you can continue holding high the banner of national salavation and helping to achieve national reconciliation, national unity, and the rallying of all national forces in accordance with the sacred and profound aspiration of our nation and people.

I humbly ask your august permission to extend best wishes to the queen.

Most humbly yours.

[Date] 17 December 1993

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, president of the PDK

Hun Sen Discusses Development Priorities

BK2412145793 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 24 Dec 93 p 11

["Excerpts" of interview with Cambodia's Second Prime Minister Hun Sen by BUSINESS TIMES correspondent Harish Mehta in Singapore—date not given]

[Excerpts] BUSINESS TIMES: Some Singapore firms have prepared a masterplan to develop Cambodian seaports and airports. Is it likely these companies will win jobs to build infrastructure projects funded by international loans?

Hun Sen: Singapore has studied the reconstruction of seaports and airports in Cambodia. They have also suggested a "highway for development corridor". The masterplan could introduce development to Cambodia in many fields.

Right now we are waiting for a team from Singapore to go to Cambodia to flesh out and finalise the plan. We will discuss who will manage the project, who will fund the project.

According to my meeting with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, that group will go to Cambodia early next year. And Singapore will provide one expert who will go to Cambodia to study the seaport at Sihanoukville.

Q [Business Times]: Is the "highway for development corridor" going to be built by some Singapore firms?

A [Hun Sen]: It is one of the studies done by Singapore. I think many countries will be involved in the project because it takes in a very large area, and the highway itself is about 300km long, from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville. The study proposes industries along the highway. We will look into it. But we will start with the development of this seaport and airport. The "highway for development corridor" will come later.

Q: Whose idea was the "highway for development corridor"?

A: The idea came from the Singapore side, and the Cambodia-Singapore Cooperation Working Committee, which studied the masterplan. The idea conforms with our development plans. (The committee was formed in September to boost bilateral relations. It facilitates dialogue between government officials from both countries working to help reconstruct the war-ravaged country.)

Q: Recently Michel Camdessus, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, visited Cambodia and said that the economic growth rate had improved and could touch 8 percent in 1994. How would you describe the economic progress that Cambodia has made?

A: Economic growth had risen from 5.5 percent in 1992 to 7.5 percent in 1993. We estimate growth in 1994 to be higher than 7.5 percent. Obviously, we would like an even quicker pace.

In Cambodia, one should not be too optimistic nor too pessimistic. We should not be too optimistic because we have too many problems to solve all at once. The Khmer Rouge continues to cause destruction, but it is not a general problem.

Our main problem is that the administration is too large to upkeep financially. Besides, the undeveloped infrastructure, which has not been restored, will also affect the macro-economy.

We should not be too pessimistic because difficulties are nothing new to us. [passag omitted]

The government has taken a number of steps. First, we are giving priority to solving the security problem. We have to provide guarantees to foreign investors about security. Otherwise, they will not invest in Cambodia.

Secondly, in order to provide a stable investment climate, we have to provide incentives and enshrine them in law. We will write economic laws and customs laws, and other regulations for investors.

We have set up a Council for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the nation. Prime Minister (Prince Ranariddh) will chair this council, which will oversee foreign investments as well as humanitarian aid.

We will try to attract aid and investments in infrastructure. And as infrastructure develops, it will pave the way for private foreign investments.

Q: Your government has said that it will renegotiate or cancel unfavourable business contracts signed with foreign firms. Has the review been completed?

A: In the political programme submitted to parliament, this point was not mentioned. We referred only to the international treaties relating to the independence and sovereignty of Cambodia.

The Paris Peace Accord (signed in 1991) stipulates that any old treaty signed with foreign countries to provide arms to Cambodia will no longer be in force. But agreements on trade, economy, and scientific cooperation still stand.

Q: Certain Cambodian ministers recently said that the operation of foreign banks in Cambodia will be reviewed, and those banks found wanting will be asked to close down. Is that happening?

A: That is not related to the legally registered banks in Cambodia—and there are two aspects to it. First, some companies say that they would like to open banks in Cambodia, and they are then granted licences. They are expected to start up quickly, but fail to do so long after the stipulated period.

The second aspect involves some banks cheating their customers and taking the money out of the country. As for companies and banks which run their businesses properly, they have our support.

Q: Has the government set itself targets for attracting foreign investments over the next few years?

A: The situation in Cambodia will not allow us to plan in such a way. We would, however, like to encourage investors to invest in our country. The money is in your pocket, so I cannot specify how much you should spend in our country. But, if you share our confidence, you will invest.

Q: Earlier you were not too happy about the slow pace of financial aid to Cambodia. Of the U.S.$880 million committed at a donor's conference in Tokyo in mid-1992, only a fraction has entered Cambodia. What are your thoughts on prospects for aid flows?

A: The world has too many problems, like in Somalia, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, and Angola. I am concerned that there will be more problems in other parts of the world—and then the money pledged will go elsewhere.

What we would like to see is that the money pledged should come in quickly. Some countries like Japan have already disbursed the funds. A big sum has been allocated for the repatriation of refugees (from Thailand to Cambodia). [passage omitted]

Q: One foreign oil exploration company has started drilling offshore, and others will start soon. This suggests that an oil industry is emerging in Cambodia.

A: We have given oil concessions since 1990. And those firms that have won concessions will normally start their programmes using appropriate technology. [passage omitted]

Q: There are fears that your Cambodian People's Party and Prince Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] may not be able to hold together, and that in future the two parties will turn against each other. Do you think that point will be reached?

A: I am the one who is involved in these matters. I don't think there will be any differences. We have the same ideas, and almost the same thinking. Our domestic policy, foreign policy, and policies on the remaining problems, including the Khmer Rouge, are all the same.

So, I don't think there is anything that should cause the two parties to split. Both His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, and His Excellency Lee Kuan Yew talked to me on this point.

It is felt within the country, and outside, that the two parties have to work together—not only for today, but for many more years.

Q: King Norodom Sihanouk is not in good health, and he has often said that he would like to name a successor. He had asked Prince Ranariddh to succeed him, but the prince declined. Does this mean the line of succession is not clear in Cambodia?

A: It is our hope that the king will live long for the unity of our country. We need him not only for one or two years, but for many years. That is what I wish for.

Q: What are Cambodia's economic needs?

A: Cambodia needs everything, but our first priority has to be agriculture, focusing on irrigation.

The second priority is communications and transport, the third is electricity, followed by professional training, power generation, and infrastructure development, which is pivotal to all investments. Without infrastructure, we cannot develop industry and tourism.

It will be difficult for the private sector to handle the development of infrastructure in Cambodia. Therefore, we are looking to bilateral aid as well as multilateral sources. But we are open to private investments in other fields such as industry, agriculture, and tourism.

I hope the private sector will judge for itself which areas are profitable for them to invest in. [passage omitted]

Third Quarter Economic Indicators Improve

BK2812095893 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 20-26 Dec 93 p 14

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh—The beginning of 1993, including the first two quarters, was characterised by economic instability and fluctuations in the rate of inflation which reached its maximum rate of 85 percent in March.

However, the third quarter of the year saw a resurgence of economic activity, which also resulted in an increase in revenue collected by the Royal Government. This led to the 20 percent increase in salary of government servants, particularly the uniformed personnel. [passage omitted]

However the increase in prices at the end of June 1993 on a year by year basis, was 186 percent. By the end of September, the prices had declined and the rate of increase was considerably lower at 40 percent.

The general environment was mainly dominated by stability. The assumption of office by the national provisional government, the adoption of the new constitution, the restoration of the Monarchy, the resumption of relations with the IMF, all contributed to the process of recovery in output.

Both commodity and exchange markets subsequently stabilised during this period and there were signs that confidence had begun to return.

The review added the National Bank has set an auction mechanism to maintain the value of the riel and reduce the risk of inflation. The bank had held two auctions in September and the weighted average offer rate grew from 2,642.33 to 2,666.39 and bids totalled 802 million riels.

The Government was also able to manage its finances without having recourse to the Central Bank Credit. Claims on government remained the same and the monetary base was therefore little changed, the review added.

It pointed out that the currency in circulation increased at a lower rate of two percent as compared to the previous quarter of six percent.

The Net Foreign Assets also recovered at the end of September by 15,000 million riels, while foreign liabilities dropped by eight percent.

This was essentially due to the decrease by 13 percent of non- residents deposits with the withdrawals by the UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] personnel.

Va Huot on Investment, Promises No Nationalization

BK2812095493 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 20-26 Dec 93 pp 1, 2

[By T. Mohan: "Foreign Owned Investments Won't Be Nationalized"]

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh—The Royal Government has assured foreign investors that there would be no nationalisation or expropriation of foreign investments in this country.

Minister of Commerce Va Huot, when speaking to THE CAMBODIA TIMES said: "We encourage foreign investments here and will not initiate or enforce rules and regulations which restrict, hinder or discourage foreign investments here."

"Towards this end, the Royal Government has decided that it will impose minimal tax, if not no tax altogether, in terms of physical incentives to encourage foreign investment."

"These include raw materials, equipment related to rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country, such as construction machinery and equipment spare parts. All of these will be free from import duty wherever applicable and in cases of import taxation, it would be levied at a very low rate."

"In terms of profits, the profits tax has been decided at between 15 to 25 percent and foreign investors can transfer their funds abroad, after tax," Va Huot pointed out.

He said that these measures were necessary to encourage foreign investors into this nation.

Besides this, foreign investors will also be able to obtain a 10-year residents status, while others will be given easy access to multiple entry visas. [passage omitted]

He also said that the tax structure for business enterprises will be reviewed if and when necessary, after careful evaluation to determine if its competitiveness and effectiveness is carried out.

Va Huot added that exports from this nation up until the month of November, amounted to an estimated US$20 million while imports for the same period approximated US$150 million.

"It is my and my ministry's mission to reduce this trade imbalance from the current ratio of US$1 in exports for every US$8 imported, to a more respectable ratio of US$1 in exports to every US$3 or US$4 in imports." [passage omitted]

"I hope the various measures taken by the Royal Government at the moment to boost commerce and trade, will result in this more favourable balance of trade within a period of two years." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in an effort to boost tourism, the cabinet in its bi-weekly meeting has ruled that the US$10 tax on tourist visas be scrapped. This brings down the cost of a visa from the current US$20 to US$10 per person.

A reported 103,000 tourists have visited this nation so far this year, representing a 30 percent increase from last year.

Indonesia

Suharto Likens Protesters to Communists

BK2712104593 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 18 Dec 93 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] President Suharto asserted Friday that various demonstrations lately were "a warning for us" that such movements were similar to communist movements.

"Its name is, of course, different, but their movements and steps are similar to the Indonesian Communist Party's (PKI). Therefore, we have to be aware. The press should not add some spices and pretends not to understand," Suharto replied newsmen's questions in a press conference on board from New Delhi to Jakarta. [sentence as published] [passage omitted]

Anti-lottery, pro-democracy, and human rights demonstrations frequently took place in the last few months.

Suharto accused that the demonstrators are reluctant to learn their own state ideology, Pancasila, but they learn other ideologies. "This has created symptoms disturbing the development in a comprehensive meaning," Suharto added.

The president called on youths and intellectuals to turn to Pancasila democracy, not other democracies. "Freedom is not just for personal but for the national interest. Personal, group interest must be sacrificed for a larger interest. A larger interest must not be sacrificed for individual and group interests," Suharto said. [passage omitted]

Suharto reminded the nation that national stability is not a tool to block democracy and openness and to frighten the people, but it is one of the main elements of a comprehensive development, not only economic development, but also development of democracy, human rights, and openness. [passsage omitted]

Students Demand Release of Detainees

BK2712130293 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 20 Dec 93 p 2

[Excerpt] Bandung (JP)—Braving official threats of harsh reactions, 40 students marched to the Bandung city council on Saturday to demand the release of 21 protesters arrested in Jakarta last week on charges of defaming President Suharto.

Their meeting with legislators ended in disarray as legislative council speaker Sazimun refused even to comment on their demand but promised to "accommodate" their hopes.

The demonstration was just the latest demanding the release of the 21 students, now under Jakarta police detention. They were arrested following last week's anti-Suharto demonstration at the House of Representatives (DPR).

Human rights campaigners have condemned the detention, arguing it violates the citizens' right to freedom of expression. The demand for their release has also come from East Java students.

The Bandung student demonstrators massed just across the council building before they were allowed to meet with councilors from the Armed Forces (ABRI) faction.

As soon as they were allowed in, they started to shout their demand. "Free our detained fellows," a student screamed. "Their arrest was illegal." They unfurled a giant banner reading "Stop the security approach."

The meeting with councilor Sazimun from the ABRI faction ended up in a row after he refused to commit himself to seeking the release of the detained students.

Claiming he was not aware of the students' arrest, Sazimun told the furious protesters that the best he could do was channel their wishes to the relevant officials.

"Help! A councilor is unable to respond to students' hopes," cried student Dynno Chressbon. "What does all this mean?".

Officials, including Armed Forces Commander General Feisal Tanjung, have warned that authorities would act swiftly the moment the borderline between protest and riot is crossed.

In Jakarta, head of the Supreme Advisory Council (DPA) Sudomo said demonstrations which aim at defaming President Suharto are not tolerable.

"They have gone too far and deserve to be beaten. There is no other way," Sudomo told reporters here Saturday.

Sudomo accused the demonstrators at the House building last week of using the tactics of the banned Indonesian Communist Party (PKI). He said the problems against which they demonstrated are fictions and that their conduct was liberal and extreme. [passage omitted]

Air Force Takes Delivery of Transport Plane

BK2512155393 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] The Indonesian Air Force's 2d Squadron has taken delivery of a CN-235 transport plane, capable of low-altitude parachute drops of equipment.

Vice Air Marshal Subiarso, Air Force deputy chief of staff for logistics, commented that he is satisfied with the highly sophisticated plane as he took delivery of the aircraft, produced by IPTN [Nusantara Aviation Industries], from Major General Sri Kadaryono, director general of procurement and service of the Department of Defense and Security.

The CN-235 is equipped with special radar and is capable of dropping heavy equipment—up to 2.5 tonnes—from an altitude of between 2 and 5 meters.

South China Sea Joint Military Exercise

BK2712122893 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 18 Dec 93 p 2

[By Ridwan M. Sijabat]

[Excerpts] On Board KRI [Republic of Indonesia Ship] Teluk Banten (JP)—It was pitch dark outside at 1 a.m. on Wednesday. All seemed quiet, but the atmosphere was tense on board this landing tank ship in the South China Sea. [passage omitted]

Indonesian warships and fighter planes successfully intercepted and destroyed a cargo ship and a tanker near Kayuara Island, a member of the Natuna archipelago.

The two enemy ships were en route from a base in the Spratly Islands to Bintan, an island in the Riau Archipelago southeast of Singapore, to supply arms to a separatist rebel group fighting government troops. Two A-4 enemy planes which were escorting the convoy were also shot down.

On board the KRI Teluk Banten, the entire operation was coordinated with military bases in Pekanbaru, Ranai, Jakarta, Pontianak, Tanjung Pinang and Ujungpandang. [passage omitted]

A few hours later four A-4 fighter planes from the enemy base in the Spratlys approached the convoy of Indonesian warships.

The Air Force's F-5 Tigers and two Nomads took off to greet them. A tense dog fight was unavoidable. One Nomad was shot down. But Indonesia prevailed and forced the enemy planes to land on Ranai Island, the largest island in the Natunas.

A joint team from the Marine Corps and Air Force was sent immediately to rescue the Nomad's pilot and copilot who ejected before their plane went down. Both men were found alive and were brought to the KRI Teluk Banten for medical treatment.

Western Fleet War Commander Commodore Bambang Surjanto hailed the mission and praised the coordination between the Navy and the Air Force. "The timing was good and the raid was on target," he told reporters on board.

The latest war game clearly ended much to the commander's satisfaction.

The interception of the enemy ships and the ensuing dog fight climaxed the four-day, joint exercise between the Indonesian Navy and the Air Force.

A total of 1,500 personnel from the two forces took part as did seven warships and six warplanes.

The naval convoy consisted of two corvettes, KRI Fatahillah and KRI Nala, two fast patrol ships, KRI Ajak and

KRI Singa, a submarine, KRI Nanggala, and two tanker vessels, KRI Teluk Banten and KRI Sorong. [passage omitted]

The drill also had strategic meaning—to prepare the armed forces for possible external threats, although remote at present, but most likely to come from the "north," the colonel said.

He stressed that Indonesia has no enemies in Asia. "We maintain friendly relations with ASEAN countries and Japan, South and North Korea, Vietnam and People's Repubic of China."

Still, the exercise was useful in at least "making all countries in the region aware of the need to respect their neighbors' sovereignty," he said.

The choice of location reflected Indonesia's concern about the growing tension in the South China Sea in recent years as six countries—China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei all claim the Spratly Islands. [passage omitted]

Indonesia, not a party to the Spratly dispute, views the Spratlys as potentially the next regional flash point. Indonesia has launched a diplomatic initiative to bring South China Sea littoral states together to discuss economic cooperation in the region in an effort to diffuse tensions. [passage omitted]

Committee Named To Elect PDI Leadership

BK2312030993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] A nine-member electoral committee was set up at the current national congress of the Indonesian Democratic Party [PDI] in Jakarta last night. The committee will elect the PDI Central Executive Council for the 1993-98 term. Megawati Sukarnoputri is chairwoman of the committee. Ismunandar and Sutarjo Suryopuritno from the current party caretaker's group, Gary Mattumoi who belongs to a group of potential leaders, Anthony Rahael, Adi Suwendi, Slamet Mulyadi, Mulyono Sukarno, and Panangian Siregar were equally named as representatives from the Eastern and Western Indonesian regions. The electoral committee was set up during a two-hour-and-a-half meeting closed to reporters.

Pertamina To Maintain Production Quota

BK2812042193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Pertamina Oil Company will not reduce its oil production capacity of about 1.5 million barrels per day, including the production of condensates, even though world oil price has now dropped to under U.S. $13 per barrel. Speaking after attending a meeting of the Mining and Energy Department in Jakarta, Pertamina Director Faisal Abda'u said the company will continue to produce crude oil in accordance with the quota approved by OPEC. In its meeting in Geneva in September, OPEC issued a resolution on the production quota for its 12 members at 24.5 million barrels per day. Indonesia has gained approval to produce 1.33 million barrels of crude oil per day, excluding condensates.

Faisal Abda'u noted that reducing oil production nowadays will not help boost oil price when non-OPEC countries continue to produce excessive amounts of crude oil. However, Indonesia will adopt a flexible stand on the issue of oil production quotas.

Laos

Memorandum With Thai Border Group Signed

BK2512051493 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] On the morning of 24 December at the Lan Xang Hotel in Vientiane, Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign affairs minister and chairman of the Lao-Thai Joint Border Committee, and Surin Phitsuwan, deputy foreign minister of the Kingdom of Thailand and chairman of the Thai-Lao Joint Border Committee, signed a memorandum on the plenary meeting between the Joint Border Committees of Laos and Thailand which was convened from 22 to 24 December.

The memorandum noted the outcome of the meeting in which the two sides unanimously agreed to send the border technical subcommittees of the two sides to quickly reconduct another on-the-spot inspection of the actual disputed area linking Na Bonoi canton, Boten District, Sayaboury Province, in Laos and Bothat precinct, Chat Trakan District, Phitsanulok Province, in Thailand, to gather detailed data on the current changing situation there as a basis for further resolving the border dispute by the Joint Border Committees of Laos and Thailand.

Regarding certain issues not yet resolved by the two sides, it was agreed by the participants in the meeting to hold further consultation at appropriate levels, aimed at amicably resolving the dispute.

SRV Province Delegation Visits Houa Phan

BK2312135793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] On 18 December, a delegation from the SRV's Thanh Hoa Province headed by (My Chanh), deputy secretary of the party committee and chairman of the Thanh Hoa Province People's Council, paid a friendship visit to Houa Phan Province. During the visit, the delegations from the two provinces held a consultative meeting and assessed economic and cultural cooperation between the two provinces during 1993. The two sides pledged to continue cooperation in this field in the coming year on the basis of strengthening the special relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between Laos and Vietnam.

Philippines

Ramos Defers Actions Against Rightists

BK2712060093 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Excerpts] President Ramos paved the way yesterday for the holding of formal peace talks with ultra-rightists groups as he ordered all agencies of the national and local government, the Philippine National Police or PNP, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, AFP, to defer to the authority of the government negotiating panel on all matters concerning the conduct of the peace talks. [as heard]

In an unnumbered memorandum ordered released by Malacanang Palace, the president cited the importance of the efforts of the government negotiating panel chaired by University of the Philippines' Law Professor Alfredo Tadiar in discussing peace with the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] or RAM and the Marcos Loyalist Group, Alyansang Tapat sa Sambayanan [Alliance Loyal to the Nation] or ALTAS. The president stressed the need for the government to coordinate its responses and stand as one entity, quote unquote, to ensure the success of the peace talks. [passage omitted]

The president ordered the Philippine National Police, the armed forces and other government agencies to, quote, refer any request, demand, complaints, agitation, communication or other matters with the chairman of the government negotiating panel; to refrain from taking any unilateral action on any request, demand, complaint, agitation, communication or other matters requiring action by government submitted or filed by or in behalf of RAM, SFP [Soldiers of the Filipino People], YOU [Young Officers Union], or the ALTAS; [words indistinct], to refer the same to the chairman of the government negotiating panel. The president said, the RAM, Soldiers of the Filipino People, and the Young Officers Union will be considered to be acting for or in behalf of the RAM, SFP, YOU, whether singly or collectively, quote unquote. Mr. Ramos added however, that the chairman of the government panel can specify other groups which can act for or in behalf of the rightists rebels. The president directed all executive departments and line agencies to issue the appropriate department orders to implement this memorandum order, quote unquote.

CPLA To Defy Order To Disband, Disarm

BK2412064893 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 22 Dec 93 p 2

[By Mike Leonen]

[Excerpts] Baguio City—Conrado Balweg, beleaguered commander of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), will defy President Ramos' order to disband and disarm the group.

Balweg said the CPLA cannot be disbanded since it has entered into a "sipat," or peace pact, with the Aquino government in 1987. He said the Ramos government should implement the agreement.

Balweg cited Executive Order (EO) 200, signed by then President Corazon Aquino, which created a separate Cordillera Administrative Region from provinces previously belonging to Regions I or II. [passage omitted]

President Ramos Monday ordered the Philippine National Police to disband and disarm the CPLA as part of the government drive to break up private armies.

Balweg, however, said the CPLA is not a private army but a "revolutionary army with a political belief." He said the CPLA was formed to pressure the national government to create an autonomous region in the Cordillera.

"Until such time as the Cordillera will become autonomous, hindi pa tapos ang pinaglalabanan ng CPLA," [the struggle of CPLA is not yet over] Balweg said.

Autonomous Region To Enact Government Code

BK2712080893 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Dec 93 p B-10

[By Ali G. Macabalang]

[Excerpts] Cotabato City—The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will enact its own Local Government Code early next year to remove irritants straining its relationship with the four component provincial governments, officials said early this week.

"We will have our own Local Government Code in January next year," ARMM Governor Lininding Pangandaman quoted Datu Guimid Matalam, speaker of the ARMM 21-man regional legislative assembly (RLA), as saying. [passage omitted]

Pending the enactment of an ARMM Local Government Code, RA [Republic Act] 6734 (ARMM charter) provides that the national Local Government Code of 1991 which took effect in 1992 applies to the autonomous region.

However, the situation has caused a rift between the autonomous government and the provincial governments of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi ARMM's four component provinces. The governors in the four provinces are invoking their powers provided for under the 1991 Local Government Code.

Lanao del Sur Governor Mahid Mutilan, the most outspoken among the four governors, said last week they would rather prefer to secede from ARMM than be deprived of their powers under the 1991 Local Government Code.

Mutilan said that in case another plebiscite is held, he and his three fellow governors will campaign for secession from

ARMM which, he said, should serve only as "monitoring agency" of the four provincial governments.

Among the powers of the provincial governors under the 1991 Local Government Code, which Mutilan claimed to have been deprived of them by the ARMM government, are the authorities to appoint heads of offices and implement projects of the national government agencies devolved to the provinces.

Mutilan also said that since the start of the eight-month administration of Pangandaman, the four provincial governors have never attended the Regional Planning and Development Board meeting because they have been rendered "mere decorations" in the body.

Government-MNLF Peace Talks To Resume

BK2812083993 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network in Tagalog 0500 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Phase II of the peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] will resume here today. The government peace panel, headed by former Ambassador Manuel Yan and Congressman Eduardo Ermita, left this morning for Jolo, Sulu aboard an Air Force plane. [passage omitted]

Both panels believe that the resumption of the talks today will be successful, as were the previous phase.

Before heading for Sulu, Congressman Ermita gave an interview to PTV-4 regarding his views on the resumption of the talks today:

[Begin Ermita recording, in English] The... [pauses] For the first time, the ad hoc working group—which will take up the issue on the transitional implementing [word indistinct] mechanism in the establishment of the regional government of the south—will be discussed. You will recall that there are five subcommittees as well as this other working group and the joint cease-fire committee that were organized. The composition of all these committees were made during the 20 December meeting. And so today, 28 December, no less than the chairman, Misuari, will chair the MNLF panel, and on the government panel, Undersecretary Alexander Aguirre of the Department of Interior and Local Government will chair the committee on the side of the Philippine panel. [end recording]

Thailand

Chuan Wants AFTA, NAFTA Linkage

BK2812093593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Excerpts] The prime minister and his Singapore counterpart Goh Chok Tong have agreed during a meeting that the establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA] must be expedited.

Speaking to reporters on this matter, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak said:

[Beginning Suphachai recording] We hope that during the summit to be held in Thailand in 1995 we will be able to announce progress toward the establishment of AFTA. They also discussed the possibility of linking AFTA with NAFTA. Prime Minister Chuan voiced his agreement in this regard, and said that our government will support and study the matter because we view North America as an important market for ASEAN. If we don't keep close contact with them, that market might be taken away by other countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said that Thailand has encouraged Singapore to invest in the Growth Triangle scheme in southern Thailand and the Economic Quadrangle economic zone in the north. The Singapore prime minister showed interest in the proposals. He said that over the next 10 to 20 years, ASEAN's economic expansion will be greater than that of Western European and other parts of the world. Therefore, it is a good opportunity for the Asia-Pacific countries to make a serious effort to cooperate. [passage omitted]

Chuan, Goh Urge Speedy Action on AFTA

BK2812015393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Dec 93 pp A1, A2

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his visiting Singaporean counterpart Goh Chok Tong called on Southeast Asian states yesterday to move faster in setting up a free trade area or risk being left behind by the rest of the world.

"Both of them recognize that there are countries within Afta (the Asean Free Trade Area) that may be less ready and may be reluctant to push for implementation because the free trade area would affect some of their industries," government spokesman Abhisit Vejjajiva told reporters.

"But the feeling is that 15 years is too long." [passage omitted]

Abhisit said Goh was concerned that the 15-year timetable for the implementation of Afta, which was engineered by Singapore and Thailand in 1990, was too long because of rapid changes in the world especially in economic blocs.

"Asean must be prepared to keep and extend its market, as well as maintain its investment attraction," Abhisit said. "Both prime ministers agreed that it is appropriate to speed up the Afta programme so that it can be completed before the initial timeframe." [passage omitted]

Abhisit said the success of the Uruguay Round would bring more confidence to the international trade. He also said that Gatt would not discourage regional economic cooperation. [passage omitted]

Chuan also asked Goh to help oversee the condition of Thai workers in Singapore.

Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchphak said Thailand has rarely had a problem with Singapore except for investment.

However, he expressed the hope that the meeting would prompt the establishment of a long-delayed bilateral business council. He added that the two governments should jointly invest in Indochina. [passage omitted]

Goh and Chuan yesterday differed over the timing of an invitation to Burma to be an observer at Asean meetings. During their talks, Chuan raised the issue of inviting Burma to the next Asean foreign ministers' meeting in Bangkok in mid-1994, but Singapore suggested it was too soon, Abhisit said.

While Goh agreed with the principle of opening Asean up to other countries, regarding Burma he felt "there is still need to consult fellow Asean leaders on the timing that would be appropriate" Abhisit said.

He quoted Chuan as saying any decision would be made by consensus.

The spokesman noted that Thailand had already consulted Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines about the invitation to Burma, and both Bandar Seri Begawan and Jakarta had agreed.

Goh and Chuan agreed the Burmese government faced problems in reconciling its political and economic objectives. [passage omitted]

Chuan also cited "difficulties" along the Thai-Cambodian border. "If Thailand tried to push everything away, it would get criticized on humanitarian grounds," Abhisit said. "If we tried to take care of or look after the people, we are accused of supporting the Khmer Rouge." [passage omitted]

Yanyong, Experts on Software Prospects

BK2812021193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Dec 93 p B8

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] While the trends point to a bright future for the software industry, these same trends are finally catching on in Thailand—a country where 97 per cent of the market is dominated by the sale of computer systems. That is changing however! In 1993, Thailand's software market has taken a major turn indicating foundation for a local software industry being laid. [passage omitted]

While the amended [copyright] law is receiving cheers from software distributors, it will have a negative effect for consumers. The draft passing will mean a bigger bill for Thai computer users, many of whom are still used to getting their software almost free of charge.

"We expect the cost of software to amount to about 40 per cent of the total cost of a computer system, especially with imported software, with 20 per cent import tax and another 10 per cent in shipment costs added," said Wongchai Hasadee, the deputy general manager of Valuesoft Vision.

To bring down prices, some local distributors are already adopting measures they think will lower prices while increasing sales. One measure is the localization of imported software into the Thai language—discouraging piracy into other countries while making the software easier to use.

Though software vendors are pinning high hopes on the amended copyright law, it is still not certain that the draft will come out any time soon.

"Before, Thailand needed show progress on the copyright issue, due to heavy pressure from the United States. However, with the signing of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade this month, it is possible that Thailand can use the GATT agreement as an additional card delaying the passage of the amended copyright act—since the agreement states that all member countries must have a copyright law according to the Bern Convention, no later than ten years from now; and ten years is a long time," one legal expert who asked not to be named said.

Others however think that the GATT agreement could at best prove only a weak card in Thailand's deck.

"The United States has already indicates a willingness to drop Thailand from the Generalized System of Preference list; to force Thailand to pass the amended copyright act by the next parliamentary session. And no GATT agreement that can protect Thailand against this," one expert said.

No matter how the issue turns out experts agree that, sooner or later, it is inevitable for Thailand to have the legal framework protecting computer software.

"The new copyright law will provide Thailand with the framework to develop its own software industry. Without it there is no hope that Thailand will ever stand on its own feet in computer software," said Yanyong Phuangrat, Deputy Director-General of the Intellectual Property Department.

Others, like Dr Kanchit Malaiwong, a member of the sub-committee set up to amend Thailand's copyright law, feel that the new law will give birth to an industry that could soon make up a major portion of Thailand's growing IT [information technology] market.

"The new law will give Thai software developers reason to develop their own software. If all goes well, the industry—worth about Bt300 million today—could be worth over Btl billion next year," he said.

Delegations Agree to Survey Lao Border

BK2812015993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Dec 93 p A3

[Excerpts] Agreement has been reached on ways of surveying the disputed Ban Romklao border area between Thailand and Laos and on legal documentation, it was announced over the weekend after talks in Vientiane.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said a special meeting of the Joint Boundary Committee on Friday had agreed to settle the dispute through negotiations based on collected survey data and the 1907 Siam-Franco Treaty and relevant maps.

Laotian officials had previously accepted the 1907 treaty, but had agreed to using American-made maps because the maps were prepared later. The maps place the dispute area, on the frontier between Thailand's Phitsanulok province and Laos' Sayaboury, in Laos.

Surin said the meeting agreed to conduct another joint technical survey of all the points in the disputed zone to provide additional data for the committee before they next meet.

The latest joint survey had not covered all the points because of flooding.

Laotian Foreign Minister Soubanh Salithilath, who co-chaired the meeting, said the survey would be made as soon as possible probably by the end of January or beginning of February.

"The good relationship between our two countries coupled with good intentions from both sides to resolve the problem, has resulted in the success of this meeting," he said. [passage omitted]

Chief of the Army's Thai Royal Survey Department Lt Gen Thammanun Udomsorayoth, a committee member, upon his return from Vientiane confirmed that common ground had been reached and predicted negotiations would now proceed quickly.

Laos had agreed to the use of aerial photogrammetry and satellites in surveying and mapping, as proposed by Thailand. Vientiane recently sent officials to train those techniques with the Department, he said.

The announcement is the first sign of solid progress in negotiations over the disputed area since the signing of the truce and the separation of troops in 1988.

Ban Romklao is inhibited by 177 families of mixed Thai-Lao descent.

Surin said there was also a need to expand border talks to review other trouble spots along the 1,740-kilometre border, from Chiang Rai to Ubon Ratchatani.

"Other problems along the border could also be resolved based on the agreement signed by Thailand and France, and which Laos inherited," he said.

However, Soubanh said Vientiane would prefer to settle the Ban Romklao issue before proceeding to the other 40 points of contention along the frontier.

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Views Corruption, Waste

BK2812101793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Dec 93

["Excerpt" of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's address to the Ninth National Assembly's Fourth Session in Hanoi on 18 December—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. Measures against corruption: The government has promulgated many documents and adopted many policies and measures to deal with corruption cases since late 1992 and early 1993. Progress has been slow, however. The facts regarding corruption and its adverse impact are undeniable. Therefore, I do not deem it necessary to mention them again. Instead, I would like to suggest a number of truly uniform, strong, and effective measures—particularly in the fields of organization and direction—to deal with this extremely serious and complicated problem.

As far as each agency or unit is concerned, if there is sufficient evidence, the cadres in charge at each level have the power to suspend cadres from their duties, dismiss them, and request that party committee echelons take disciplinary measures against them. Serious cases must be referred to law enforcement agencies for legal action.

It goes without saying that if the cadres in charge fail to handle cases in a correct way because of inaccurate information, intentional reprisal, and so forth, they must bear responsibility for their shortcomings. If there is sufficient evidence that they tried to protect wrongdoers or failed to take appropriate actions, the cadres in charge must bear the responsibility before the upper echelons. Regarding penalties, it is necessary to adopt severe economic measures to go with administrative and legal actions. Regarding property that has been acquired through the theft of public funds or misappropriation of the people's assets, it must be recovered in full, even if ownership of the property has already been transferred to members of the corrupt officials' families.

2. Measures against smuggling: The government has also promulgated many documents and adopted many policies and measures to deal with smuggling cases. Many meetings and inspection tours have been conducted in the localities. Now is the time to adopt more resolute measures and take more severe action.

Let me stress again the responsibilities of all sectors and echelons in charge of state management. These responsibilities rest first with local administrations. People's committees at all levels are bound by duty to take the most timely and resolute actions to deal with smuggling cases. People's committees at all levels, but first at the provincial and city level, have the duty and power to make use of those forces in border, inland, and sea areas as well as at ports, airports, and so forth. They also have the duty and power to oversee the activities of local units and organizations, including customs, revenue services, port authorities, and other agencies that fall under the management of upper echelons but are based in the localities under the committees' charge. If there is sufficient evidence that those units or organizations have engaged in smuggling activities or assisted smugglers, the local people's committees concerned must take immediate action based on the power invested in them. If an agency or unit engages in smuggling or assists smugglers, the leading official in charge of that agency or unit must bear direct responsibility. This measure also applies to cases involving the use of means of transport or storage facilities for smuggling purposes. Upper level cadres in charge must bear responsibility for smuggling cases involving agencies or units directly under their management. It is imperative to put an end to the practice of allowing agencies to engage in smuggling activities to generate funds for local budgets. Cadres directly in charge of such agencies must be subjected to administrative and legal action. Appropriate disciplinary action must be taken if the wrongdoers are party members.

Regarding antismuggling measures, they have already been defined clearly under the civil code and in many government documents. It is necessary now to review or supplement those measures to make them consistent with the special nature of this task. Smuggled goods that have already reached inland areas must all be confiscated. It is not enough to levy taxes or impose fines on smugglers, because this will encourage them to engage in business as usual. Measures must be taken to revoke the licenses or suspend the operations of business establishments that buy or sell smuggled goods. The names of those business establishments and their owners must be made public by the mass media. Legal proceedings must be initiated against wrongdoers. At the same time, it is necessary to adopt stronger economic measures against smugglers or officials that help them.

Antismuggling agencies must work out plans to purify their ranks and adopt severe administrative penalties and legal actions against wrongdoers, including party disciplinary measures if the wrongdoers are party members.

3. Measures against waste: While our country is striving to integrate all of its capability and potential to fight poverty and backwardness, the waste of public property by state agencies and people's lavish expenditures for ritual ceremonies such as marriages and funeral services are still prevalent. These acts should be denounced. Moreover, there is a trend among echelons of state agencies and sectors to use the state budget in a lavish manner, especially in furnishing their organizations, holding meetings, organizing anniversaries, and so forth.

Efforts must be made to seriously implement Prime Minister's Directive No. 06, dated 5 January 1993, on practicing thrift and conserving the state budget, and Directive No. 132, dated 27 March 1993, on managing the income and expenses of state-run enterprises. Violations of the spirit of these directives will be seriously dealt with. The Ministry of Finance will determine the appropriate budget required by state agencies and enterprises to carry out their administrative work in the new situation. The budget should meet the requirements of these agencies, but efforts must be made to spend it in an economical manner. Use of the state budget to buy gifts and presents is prohibited. Contributions made by state enterprises to their higher echelon management agencies should be suspended. Wasteful receptions and feasts held by agencies to welcome newly-assigned officials in localities should be stopped. The Ministry of Interior must formulate regulations on organizing farewell and welcoming parties for high-ranking officials in the provinces to ensure safety while avoiding wasteful expenditures.

I would like to propose that the National Assembly, mass organizations and societies, and mass media agencies launch a wide and far-reaching movement to oppose waste and promote thrift—in accordance with our national tradition—during the upcoming Vietnamese lunar new year celebrations. Efforts must be made to encourage people to save money for essential expenses and investment in economic development projects, while denouncing waste and lavish expenditures.

4. Measures to curb social vices: My definition of social vices includes prostitution, drug addiction, gambling, and so forth; especially prostitution, which leads to AIDS. Since early 1993, the government has issued decisions on curbing prostitution and drug addiction. It has also issued further instructions to eradicate these social vices. Now it is time for society to urge each individual, family, ward, and village to participate in the campaign against prostitution and drug addiction.

Drastic measures must be taken against the owners of brothels; they must be brought before a court of law, while their license to operate a business establishment must be revoked. Serious punishment must be imposed on those who promote or lure young women into prostitution. Administrative measures must be imposed immediately against the directors or managers of state enterprises, hotels, restaurants, and guest houses who organize or provide prostitutes for their clients. These measures include the authority to suspend them from their work or discharge them from their agency before bringing them to a court of law. Party members who commit such crimes will be dealt with seriously in accordance with party discipline.

For professional prostitutes, efforts must be made to provide them with medical treatment and vocational training to help them engage in some kind of trade after their release. For non- professional prostitutes, they will be sent back to their native places for action by the local authorities or their families.

Drastic measures will also be imposed against the clients of brothels. They will be discharged from their agency if they are civil servants, regardless of their position, and expelled from the party if they are party members. Their names will be announced by the mass media.

5. Implementation of measures: In order to implement measures to curb and stop these social vices effectively, efforts must be made to ensure that the full authority to take appropriate action is given to the concerned state agencies, echelons of people's councils, National Assembly deputies, and party organizations in the localities. I would like to say that now it is not the time for talk or criticism. We must carry out this task seriously and with a high sense of responsibility.

At this session, a number of deputies have correctly expressed their views on the responsibility of National Assembly deputies in this task. The government highly welcomes these viewpoints. I would like to point out some additional concrete tasks that agencies at the central level should carry out urgently:

A. The National Assembly Standing Committee [NASC] should strengthen control and consistently review implementation of the government's measures against corruption, smuggling, and waste, as well as activities in this regard by the organ of control and the people's courts.

I suggest that the National Assembly issue a separate resolution on countering corruption and smuggling during this session. At the same time, as some deputies have suggested, it should empower the National Assembly Standing Committee to study the possible promulgation of a law on countering corruption and smuggling. Although such a law is not yet available, the NASC should introduce regulations on countering corruption and smuggling as soon as possible.

I suggest that the responsibilities and legal powers of every National Assembly deputy in the fight against corruption should be clearly defined. The deputies should not only perform their supervisory role, but must also join the fight according to their function. We especially need to clarify the responsibilities of those who are both National Assembly deputies and leading cadres in the party, government, and mass organizations.

Regarding the law enforcement agencies, it is necessary to define their responsibilities clearly in implementing the law and carrying out regulations on combined actions in dealing with corruption and smuggling cases. I suggest that the NASC intensify its supervision over the work of the organs of control and the courts.

For the government, we accept our full responsibility and power in the fight against corruption and smuggling in accordance with the Law on the Organization of the Government regarding the role of the government, ministers, and prime minister. The government is studying the gradual elimination of the management role of ministries and government departments over economic enterprises. It will introduce regulations on official duties and civil service policies. These are considered to be measures with important effects in preventing public harassment and the embezzlement of public property.

The government will reorganize its supporting body for countering corruption and smuggling. This organ will be consolidated under the charge of a minister to help the government and prime minister directly supervise all government organs.

Cabinet members are responsible for anticorruption and antismuggling work in their sections. Deputy prime ministers are responsible for these tasks in their areas. If a majority of units or individuals in a ministry or sector commits corruption or smuggling offenses or abets in smuggling, and the minister or official in charge of that ministry or section fails to stop the practice, then we first have to look at the responsibilities of that minister or official. If the minister or official is directly involved in or protects the practice, they should be dealt with by administrative and legal measures. It is also suggested that the responsibility of the party committee in that ministry or section needs to be examined. Similarly, the National Assembly needs to examine the responsibility of the cabinet and the local authorities if corruption, smuggling, and other social evils remain prevalent in certain ministries and localities.

My suggestions are aimed at heightening the individual responsibility of the heads of administration organs at all echelons and levels. I consider this a top priority in this fight.

B. Finally, in order to prevent and reduce the practice of corruption and smuggling that I have just presented, we have to work in a concentrated, uniform, and efficient way. I suggest that we introduce regulations to strengthen relations between the legislature, administration, and judiciary under the chairmanship of the NASC. The NASC should hold working sessions every month with the leaders of those organs to listen to their reports and offer opinions on the fight against corruption and smuggling.

It is also necessary to have a structure that clearly guarantees the powers and responsibilities of people working in cadre personnel management. If an administrative cadre in any position or level is proven to have committed corruption or smuggling, his direct supervisor is entitled to apply administrative measures. The legal enforcement agencies have the full authority to prosecute him. The NASC will consider complicated and serious cases during its regular meetings with the government, the organ of control, and the people's court. Offenders must be strictly dealt with according to the law. This is the only way to ensure the use of speedy and efficient measures in this fight and to win back the public's trust.

Assembly Issues Communique on Economic Courts

BK2812151993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Communique No. 13 issued by the Ninth National Assembly's Fourth Session in Hanoi on 28 December]

[Excerpts] This morning, 28 December, the National Assembly held a plenary meeting under the chairmanship of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu to discuss and adopt the draft bill amending some provisions of the Law on Organization of the People's Court.

The National Assembly heard Nguyen Van Yeu, vice chairman of the National Assembly Judiciary Committee, deliver a compiled report on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat and the Law Drafting Committee on the views of deputies regarding the revised draft bill amending some provisions of the Law on Organization of the People's Court. [passage omitted]

The National Assembly discussed the different viewpoints before voting to pass the draft bill amending some provisions of the Law on Organization of the People's Court.

The promulgation of this law is aimed at meeting the essential requirements for setting up economic tribunals, which will contribute to establishing a legal base for promoting investment and the business activities of establishments at home and abroad. It will also serve as a base for building and perfecting judiciary agencies step by step to accelerate the economic development programs. [passage omitted]

Assembly Approves Amendments to Judicial Law

BK2812134993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] This morning, the National Assembly met in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall to study and approve the draft law on amending or supplementing a number of provisions in the Law on Organization of People's Courts.

At the start of the session, a representative of the Secretariat presented a summary of views contributed by deputies during their group discussions and at the conference hall last week. After reviewing them, the National Assembly studied and voted on the contents of the draft law on amending or supplementing a number of provisions in the Law on Organization of People's Courts. The deputies voted to organize economic courts into special courts under the Supreme People's Court, and to put people's courts in provinces and cities under the direct management of the central government. The deputies also voted to grant the power to district people's courts to try minor economic violations based on simple details and clear evidence.

Regarding the function of economic courts, the National Assembly agreed to grant economic courts the power to try cases involving economic violations and business bankruptcy declarations. As for the third function of economic courts as defined under the draft law—namely, handling business registration—the deputies expressed different views and held a relatively animated debate. Some deputies concurred with a provision in the draft law granting economic courts the power to handle business registration. Others expressed a different view, suggesting that business registration should be left to the government.

The National Assembly put this issue to a vote. Most of the deputies did not agree with allowing economic courts to handle business registration. Instead, they voted to grant those economic courts under people's courts in provinces and cities the power to exercise both preliminary and final jurisdiction over minor economic violations based on simple details and clear evidence.

The National Assembly also voted to grant the National Assembly Standing Committee the power to decide on the formation of different special courts based on the recommendations of the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court.

At the conclusion of this morning's session, after debating the major issues, a total of 334 out of 344 deputies present voted to pass the draft law on amending or supplementing a number of provisions in the Law on Organization of People's Courts.

In the afternoon, the deputies held group discussions to debate and contribute more views on the National Assembly's draft resolution on tasks for 1994; the campaign for thrift and against waste, corruption, and smuggling; and the 1994 state budget estimates. These draft resolutions will be presented to the closing session of the National Assembly for passage.

Do Quoc Sam: 1 Million New Jobs Created

BK2812060593 Hanoi VNA in English 0551 GMT 28 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 28—A total of 963,000 new jobs have been created this year, bringing to 2.28 million the number of people getting employment since 1991, said Do Quoc Sam, cabinet minister and chairman of the State Planning Committee.

The minister added that the government has so far this year disbursed almost VND 200 billion (roughly USD 20 million) for job generation projects throughout the country. In addition, about VND 15 billion (or USD 1.5 million) were spent on equipment for 73 vocational centres where hundreds of thousands of youths are learning a trade.

Many other people have benefited from the European Community international programme for the integration of Vietnamese returnees and the various jobs generation projects run by foreign non- governmental organizations as well as from local new economic and reforestation projects and labour export.

The minister said that one measure for the government to take to reduce unemployment that is growing should be to spend more heavily on vocational training while launching more small-scale job generation projects and opening more placement bureaux.

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